

Hafa Adai!

Blanco intern says CNMI needs to diversify economic strategy through IT. **PAGE 2**
Judiciary's amended budget request seeks 10% pay raises. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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EDITORIAL

Will humanity heed this 'CODE RED'?

As if to confirm that this summer's record-breaking heat waves, flooding and wildfires are no freak occurrences, the United Nations released a dire report Monday concluding that the world has moved too slowly to stop global warming and the increase in extreme and deadly weather events. "A code red for humanity," the report says.

But there's hope. We can still prevent the worst devastation with radical action to cut carbon emissions over the next decade.

That will take ambitious and committed leadership from the U.S. and other industrialized nations—and a reversal of political lethargy that has slowed progress since the Paris climate agreement in 2015. As of now, the nations responsible for the most emissions are still not cutting carbon fast enough. One test of that leadership will come in November, when world leaders will meet at a United Nations summit in Scotland to hammer out another round of climate pledges.

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'CNMI Labor's issuance of PUA/PFUC is below 30%'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **SNILD committee to hold PUA oversight meeting**
» **CNMI DOL: Nearly \$11M issued last Aug. 10**

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said yesterday that the federal government gave the CNMI a total of \$706,429,600 for both Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, yet the CNMI Department of Labor's issuance

of these funds is below 30%.

Separately, the Office of the Governor issued a statement last night saying the CNMI Department of Labor paid out

close to \$11 million last Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, in benefits to claimants for PUA, FPUC, and Lost Wages Assistance.

See **CNMI** on **Page 4**



NEW POLICE OFFICERS

The Department of Public Safety gained 44 new officers yesterday following the graduation festivities of the 26th Police Academy Cycle at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Story on **Page 2**

Autopsy determines woman was a hit-and-run victim

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The autopsy that was conducted

last Friday on the 20-year-old victim in the tragic Marpi hit-and-run case over two weeks confirmed that

the victim died due to blunt force trauma.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson

Dre Pangelinan, the autopsy on 20-year-old Sophia A. Demapan determined that

See **AUTOPSY** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:36pm, Aug. 11, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **73.9%**
Fully Vaccinated: **141**
Days since last community transmission **141**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	28,489
Fully Vaccinated:	26,582
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,379
Fully Vaccinated:	4,123
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	613

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,769	48	8,817
Recovered	8,398	8	8,406
Active	220	48	268
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	210	1	211
Traced via Travel Screening	173	1	174
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

31,318 Fully vaccinated



INSIDE



LOCAL

IPI will be hiring local workers once it is given the green light to proceed with its construction.

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LOCAL

TRIP visitors to the Marianas are being welcomed at the airport with indigenous dancers.

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BUSINESS

Claudia C. Adriano, who was born and raised on Saipan, is now the GM of Andaz San Diego.

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Local

DPS gains 44 new officers

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety gained 44 new officers following the graduation festivities of the 26th Police Academy Cycle yesterday.

According to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, the CNMI welcomed 44 new officers following the graduation of DPS' largest Academy yesterday

at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

The graduates include: Mitch Atalig, Onria Atalig, Dylan Barcinas, Edwin Basto, Earl Borja, Noah Camacho, Keona Castro, Jason Delacruz, Peter Deleon Guerrero, Jamanuel Gilnifrad, Keanu Hosono, Vince Igitol, Jonathan Inacio, Rodigan Jepen, Kekoa Kani, Francis Leightley, Joey Lizama, Peyton Lizama, Daniel Mafnas,

Jasper Manacop, Zsazsa Manahane, Asiana Manglona, Clayton Manglona, Ronierick Masga, Jarrett Matsutaro, Brian Mendiola, France Muna, Kroy Ogo, Rachel Ogumoro, Tenta Ordonez, Timmy Pangelinan, Vincent Rangamar, Brandon Regis, James Reyes, Rolly Roppul, Kristen Salas, Pualani Taisacan, Kaegel Taitano, Paz Michiko Tenorio, Jessielyn Teregeyo, Elijah Terlaje, Keremes Terry, Garrie

Ann Toves, and Elijah Villar.

"This the largest graduating class. On average, we try to maintain 25-30 cadets for each academy. This class alone, we started with 47 but we lost three along the way. These were the ones who dropped out of the academy earlier on," he said.

He said the new addition to the department is much needed amid the ongoing pandemic and the return of tourists.

"This is a plus for the department because this means more officers out in the field, especially now with the pan-

demic and the opening up of tourism, we're going to need more officers out on the streets and strategic sites," he said.

Guerrero said although there has been concerns as to why the academy was cut short—three months shorter than the previous six-month academy cycles—he is sure that these cadets have gained the right skills to carry out their new duties.

"There's no reason to have them out there for six months. These officers have undergone three months of intensive training...and within those three months, they learned a lot of stuff, including acquiring 39 credit hours toward their Criminal Justice associate degree. I know we've been criticized that we went from six months to three months but my position there is, if the military can do it in three months, why can't our officers? They're very knowledgeable and smart so that issue is out of the window as far as whether they are capable of doing it or not," he said.

The DPS chief said his hope for these new officers is to continue to uphold the policies and laws they swore to protect and enforce.

Meanwhile, in an interview

with Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, he said in his years of administering the oath of office, this year's academy was by far the largest cycle that he has sworn in and one of the most diverse.

"This is the third time I've administered the oath to the academy. This was definitely the largest class. They seem very enthusiastic about their new profession. When I was a police officer many years ago, I graduated in the 8th Police Academy Cycle and we were only 20. Two were from Rota and Tinian and the rest were from Saipan. We also didn't have any women at that time. Now you have a diverse group that includes women and men and women from different ethnic backgrounds too and that's great," he said.

Camacho said he was honored to administer the oath this year and wishes the new officers the best in their new profession.

"It was an honor and privilege to administer the oath for the 26th DPS Academy. It was a wonderful and touching to see the many families come out to pin the badges on their cadets and I wish all of them success in their future profession," Camacho said.

Blanco intern says the CNMI needs to diversify economic strategy through IT

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Xavier C. Ada, a second-year political science and criminology student of the University of Denver who interned with late representative Ivan James Alafonso Blanco, held a presentation yesterday before the House of Representatives on the need for the CNMI to diversify its economic strategy through information technology.

In his PowerPoint presentation in the House chamber, Ada said his presentation is a completion of the late Blanco's global internship.

"This presentation is in memory of Congressman Blanco. So I'm humbled and honored to be representing him today with the work we've done over the summer," he said.

Blanco, 45, passed away last July 23 of massive pulmonary embolism. He was a member of the 20th, 21st, and 22nd CNMI Legislature.

Ada said Blanco was focused on leveraging talent across the country to aid the CNMI in longstanding issues. Ada said Blanco guided him from beginning to end to make sure that he (Ada) was on track with helping to pro-

vide legislation.

He said for a long number of years the CNMI has faced three issues—economy, workforce development and health care—and that he and Blanco did focus on the economic condition within the CNMI and that was the late congressman's primary concern.

He said his research all point to a need for economic diversification in the CNMI.

Ada said tourism may be the primary economic pillar of the CNMI but this was subject to external forces such as Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu that happened in 2015 and 2018, respectively. He also noted the infrastructure disruptions, such as the underwater cable break that happened here in the CNMI, the COVID-19 pandemic that has created unprecedented issues affecting the economy, and federal statutory impacts on immigration and minimum wage.

To diversify its Information Technology, Ada said the CNMI has a lot of distinct advantages—it is part of the United States as a territory and has English-speaking population. He said time zone coverages and H-1B exemptions are also part of the advantages.

See **INTERN** on Page 4

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Attao

Selected NMTI construction students to get scholarships

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be able to provide scholarships to its low-to-moderate income construction students this upcoming school year, thanks to \$1.16 million in federal funds that the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will release to NMTI soon.

The scholarship funds are a portion of the \$254 million Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery grant that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved for release to NMHC last Oct. 16, 2020.

Prior to NMHC sending out a request for the release of funds, NMTI and NMHC will need to finalize an inter-agency agreement first and, once that is finalized and signed, NMHC will release the \$1.16 million to NMTI after 30 days.

CDBG-DR program manager Kimo Rosario met with NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao on Wednesday to discuss the release of funds. Rosario explained at that meeting that HUD requires the scholarships to only be awarded to NMTI's low-moderate-income students studying construction to serve as a "tieback" to the initial purpose of the CDBG-DR grant, which was released

to the CNMI to help fix infrastructure, housing, buildings, etc. that were devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut.

In terms of the further details of the scholarships, such as the cutoff for deter-

mining income levels, student performance requirements, and the need for a recipient to be a full-time

student, Rosario said that NMHC will provide NMTI with further updates soon. Attao said Wednesday

that she plans to review and sign the agreement between NMTI and NMHC by this Friday, Aug. 13.



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STK: 17P332
18,786 MILES
KBB: \$36,357

2018 KIA **SPORTAGE** LX

SALE PRICE
\$19,995
STK: 20D027E
16,133 MILES
KBB: \$21,271

2014 MAZDA
MAZDA6 SPORT

- 44,202 MILES
- STK: 19HS901B
- KBB: \$14,024

SALE PRICE
\$12,995

2016 HYUNDAI
VELOSTER

- 39,217 MILES
- STK: 20H068A
- KBB: \$16,830

SALE PRICE
\$16,995

2018 MAZDA
CX-5 TOURING

- 54,194 MILES
- STK: 8R271
- KBB: \$20,419

SALE PRICE
\$19,995

2018 KIA
FORTE HATCHBACK

- 10,564 MILES
- STK: 18HS916
- KBB: \$15,477

SALE PRICE
\$14,995

2018 KIA
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- 10,367 MILES
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- KBB: \$19,930

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- KBB: \$19,751

SALE PRICE
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MAZDA6 SPORT

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- KBB: \$21,336

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MAZDA3 SPORT

- 10,120 MILES
- STK: 8HS879
- KBB: \$19,402

SALE PRICE
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2020 HYUNDAI
ELANTRA SPORT

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- KBB: \$21,326

SALE PRICE
\$18,995

2019 HYUNDAI
TUCSON GL

- 20,026 MILES
- STK: 9H040D
- KBB: \$21,411

SALE PRICE
\$19,995

2018 MAZDA
MAZDA3 SPORT

- 10,153 MILES
- STK: 18HS905
- KBB: \$19,496

SALE PRICE
\$16,995

2017 HYUNDAI
VELOSTER

- 10,095 MILES
- STK: 17P326
- KBB: \$18,785

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\$18,995

2015 FORD
EXPLORER XLT

- 18,617 MILES
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- KBB: \$23,603

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2018 MAZDA
MAZDA3

- 10,324 MILES
- STK: 18HS904
- KBB: \$16,402

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- STK: 15P325
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Number of positive cases in CNMI now at 211

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One additional individual has been confirmed positive for COVID-19 from passenger arrival testing, bringing the CNMI's total to 211 cases since March 28, 2020.

The latest case was identified by travel screening and confirmed through testing on arrival on Aug. 9, 2021.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said in a statement yesterday that the individual has been quarantined and is actively monitored. The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases.

In related news, the COVID-19 vaccination campaign will select one winner of \$3,000 on Facebook

Live tomorrow at 5pm on Road to 80's Facebook page. Next Friday, Aug. 20, the campaign will raffle off \$3,500.

This raffle, as with past and future raffles hosted by Road to 80, is available only to the CNMI's population that has received a COVID-19 vaccine. According to vaccinatcnmi.com's Vax Dashboard, almost 33,000 people are eligible for this Friday's and all future raffles.

After Friday, the next upcoming raffles are as follows: \$3,500 on Aug. 20; \$4,000 on Aug. 27; and Road to 80's "Grand Finale" on Aug. 28 at the Taste of the Marianas main stage, when there will be six raffles: three \$2,500 raffles exclusive to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota's respective vaccinated populations; and three CNMI-wide raffles to announce one winner each for \$5,000; \$15,000; and a 2020 Nissan Rogue Sport.

For winners to claim their prize, they must submit proof that they are fully vaccinated. For those who

received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, this means providing the second vaccine confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines only need to provide their single vaccine confirmation number.

Road to 80's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/roadto80cnmi>.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatcnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

Tropical depression threatens Marianas

A tropical depression a few miles east of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is currently moving in the direction of the Marianas and could possibly become a tropical storm sometime this week.

According to a tropical cyclone advisory issued yesterday by the National Weather Service in Guam, the center of Tropical Depression 16W was located near latitude 12.4 degrees

north and longitude 176.8 degrees east. The system was last seen moving west at 9 miles per hour. This puts 16W about 475 miles east of Utirik, about 490 miles east-northeast of Wotje, about 525 miles northeast of Majuro, about 825 miles southeast of Wake, about 975 miles east of Enewetak, and about 2150 miles east of Guam.

Currently, the forecast track through Friday varies between a

west-northwest to west-southwest motion, but overall, general motion will be westward with little change in forward speed.

Tropical Depression 16W brings maximum sustained winds of 35 mph and is forecast to

intensify slightly, possibly becoming a tropical storm tonight before weakening once again later in the week. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

CNMI

From Page 1

DeLeon Guerrero, who chairs the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said the PUA/PFUC program is already nearing its end, so a less-than-30% issuance of these funds is "worrisome." Both programs will end on Sept. 4, 2021.

Prompted by this, DeLeon Guerrero called for an oversight meeting on PUA/PFUC tomorrow, Friday, at the House of Representatives chamber at 1pm and has invited Labor Secretary Vicky I. Benavente to testify.

"To date, my office alone has received about 245 unique PUA consent forms [that] were all submitted to the CNMI Department of Labor Secretary's Office and we continue to receive on a daily basis," DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said there are concerns on date, systematic, administration, and funds allocations that merit in-depth questioning of the program's admin-

istration.

The Office of the Governor statement last night said the most recent disbursement included payments for PUA 2 and PUA 3 to more than 1,800 PUA applicants in the CNMI and that CNMI DOL continues to resolve claimant issues, all unpaid claims, and working with claimants to provide necessary qualifying documents.

The statement quoted Benavente as saying that PUA claimants have been cooperative and understanding of the stringent documentation requirements.

"Once all the PUA program requirements have been met, the benefits are processed for payment to the claimants. As always, we appreciate the claimants' patience and understanding as CNMI DOL continues to implement the program under strict federal guidelines. We will continue to run a federally compliant operation that prevents fraud and abuse. Ultimately, we are in the business of helping every eligible claimant who has submitted all re-

quired documents," said Benavente.

Last June, DeLeon Guerrero submitted an Open Government Act request to Benavente for the production of documents related to PUA/PFUC issuance. Among other records that she asked for are all internal allotment advices related to PUA and PFUC funding.

DeLeon Guerrero earlier stated that she made the OGA request because she has been receiving a lot of messages from applicants that are still waiting for their application/benefit status.

Last weekend, citing U.S. Department of Labor's reports, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) disclosed that, as of July 24, 2021, a total of 2,563 PUA and PFUC applications in the Commonwealth remain unprocessed. Sablan said the CNMI has \$273,895,997 that's available to pay out remaining PUA claims and a balance of \$223,137,461 to cover PFUC claims.

He said a total of \$103,559,003 in PUA claims have been paid out along with \$105,837,130 for PFUCA since last summer.



DeLeon Guerrero



Benavente

EDITORIAL

From Page 1

It could be the last chance for world leaders to band together to fight climate change. The path forward is clear, though not easy or cheap: Phase out gas- and diesel-fueled cars and trucks and accelerate the deployment of zero-emission vehicles. Stop building homes and businesses powered with natural gas. Stop construction of coal-fired power plants across the globe. Ensure every corner of the world has access to renewable energy. Cut methane emissions from oil wells, landfills and farms. Invest in research to develop technologies that can remove carbon from the atmosphere.

The report, which is the sixth assessment from U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

since 1990, asserts that the consequences of human-driven climate change are already being felt at unprecedented levels across the globe. And those changes are only going to accelerate. The report warns of increased frequency of climate extremes such as heat waves, droughts and heavy precipitation in nearly every inhabited region. Compared with the panel's last report, issued in 2014, extreme weather events are occurring more frequently and are projected to worsen.

Human activity has already caused the planet to warm by 1.1 degrees Celsius, or nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit, since 1850, according to the report. Climate experts agree that a global rise in temperature beyond 2 degrees Celsius would be catastrophic for life on Earth. If warming is not mitigated before then, sea level rise would displace significant portions of the global population. Ex-

treme heat and drought are already on course to threaten agricultural production, particularly in western North America, northeastern South America, and across Africa.

World leaders have sought to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, to avert the worst effects. But progress hasn't been good. In 2019, recorded atmospheric concentrations of carbon monoxide were at the highest levels in the last 2 million years. Unless emissions are significantly reduced in the immediate future, global warming of 2 degrees Celsius will occur within this century.

How many more dire warnings will it take? How many summers will the world watch in horror as forests burn and streets flood? We are fast approaching our last chance to save the planet from calamity.

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AUTOPSY

From Page 1

the cause of death was blunt force trauma from the car crash.

"I can't speak too much on the findings of the autopsy, but it was found that the victim did die from blunt force trauma as a result of a vehicle-pedestrian crash. The completed report will be sent over to the prosecutor of the case," he said.

Pangelinan said the autopsy was conducted last Friday at 1pm at the Commonwealth Health Center by Dr. Philip Dauterman.

"After the autopsy, that's when the arrest warrant was signed. It was signed the next day, Saturday, at around 1pm and the arrest was executed that same day," Pangelinan said.

INTERN

From Page 2

Interestingly, Ada said, there is a proof of concept already developed and currently working on Saipan. He pointed out that the Latte Training Academy and Intelisecure /Proofpoint partnership are providing 20 full time employees, which are all local hires.

Latte Training Academy is a local entity which helps in providing training for local workers to be put into jobs as well. Proofpoint is a Colorado-based cybersecurity firm that relocated to the CNMI.

Ada said all local hires were guaranteed competitive salaries as well as health benefits, which included health care coverage and 401K as well.

"This was all developed during the pandemic," he said.

Ada said the biggest thing though, is there is no environmental footprint and no dependence on government subsidies.

He said they just use an office space at the Marianas Business Plaza. "And with that, we kept our island lush and beautiful as well," he said.

Ada said the CNMI could potentially leverage its H1B exemption to develop an IT hub.

He said big companies such as Facebook, Twitter, Google, Snapchat have to hire employees outside of the U.S. because they're a little bit more skilled in the areas that they need them to be covered.

Ada said with that, the U.S. government put a national cap of 65,000 H1B.

He said interestingly, that cap is usually breached within like two weeks of announcement.

Last Monday, the Superior Court decided to try as a minor the 17-year-old who was arrested for allegedly driving the car that hit and killed Demapan in Marpi, and left her lifeless body on the shoulder of the road.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Demapan's body was found by a person who was driving home at around 9pm last Tuesday and had noticed her body on the shoulder of Route 30 in Marpi. The caller immediately stopped to help and called the police for assistance.

At the scene, police noticed tire marks near where they found the woman's body. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responders saw multiple lacerations and deformities on the female's body. In addition, the officers also noticed that she sustained multiple fractures and severe injuries to her head.

He said the deadline is April 1 for all big companies to submit their H1B application and by April 14, it's already clocked out. Ada said the CNMI could potentially host H1B workers here to support national mid-size IT firms.

He said H1B can serve as training mentors for CNMI local workforce, which could potentially provide jobs as well as help the prospering economy.

Ada said the CNMI could establish a "proof-of-concept for permanency to H1B exemption on island.

Some benefits, he said, H1B are skilled workers with higher salaries or locals would get higher salaries, there's no environmental footprint, and that there is ability to extend industry to Tinian and Rota.

Ada said this is a development of a sustainable and growing sector.

Ada recommended next steps for the Legislature is to potentially work alongside with the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority and Governor's Council of Economic Advisors to craft industry development plan.

Ada said there can be limitation on the number of and types of IT firms.

He said another big part of it is minimum standards for participation in the CNMI IT industry.

Ada said some labor standards that he thought of was the wage and benefit requirements as well as leadership opportunities and promotional requirements.

On how it be implemented, Ada said it is vital to have an H1B plan. He said employers should be required to submit a three-year H1B staffing plan so that they can't just come to the CNMI for one year and then decide to leave.



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Judiciary's amended budget request seeks 10% pay raises

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary has submitted an amended fiscal year 2022 budget request in the amount of \$12,851,685 that reflects, among others, a 10% salary increase across-the-board, with the exception of justices and judges.

In their amended budget request last month to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said the 10% salary increase adjustment became effective last June based on the availability of the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Last March, the Judiciary asked the Legislature for a fiscal year 2022 budget of \$11,832,100, which is approximately \$7 million more than what is currently allocated to the Judiciary.

Early this month, the House passed the budget bill for fiscal year 2022 that allocates \$1,227,664 to the Judiciary, \$3,384,543 to the Legislature, and \$25,282,849 to the Executive Branch. The bills is now before the Senate for action.

In their amended budget request, a copy of which *Saipan*

Tribune obtained Tuesday, Castro and Naraja said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has committed \$13,106,703 of the ARPA funds for operations and activities of the Judiciary in fiscal years 2021-2023. They said Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios solidified this commitment in writing on June 4, 2021, at the ARPA CNMI expenditure plan presentation.

Castro and Naraja said various factors necessitated their

request for salary adjustment. In previous years, they said, salaries have remained stagnant, leading to difficulties in hiring and retaining employees. They said employee turnover is costly as the Judiciary incurs additional costs to recruit and train new hires.

"Turnover also results in decreased productivity and less institutional knowledge," they said.

The Judiciary had proposed across-the-board salary adjust-

Last day today to see FOA 'One Act Plays' production

The Friends of the Art's production of *One Act Plays* will have its final staging today, Aug. 12, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Theater, starting at 7pm.

One Act Plays, written by David Ives, is suitable for adults and youth of all ages and is directed by Harold Easton for the Friends of the Arts.

Friends of the Art first staged these humorous and thought-provoking plays yesterday, Aug. 11.

One Act Plays have four one act plays written by Ives, a renowned playwright who achieved his breakthrough success in the 1990s with

an evening of one-act plays called *All in the Timing*, which ran Off-Broadway for over six hundred performances.

Tickets prices for all shows start at \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. You may purchase tickets from members of the play's cast and at the door or reserve seats/tickets through Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

All members of the community are invited to attend, bring their family and friends, and enjoy the show. The Friends of the Arts would like to offer special thanks to its sponsors and to the Division of Parks and Recreation for their support. (PR)

ments in prior budget requests, but they were not granted due to the fiscal climate of the CNMI, in part, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on government revenues.

Castro and Naraja said modifications in the compensation plan will allow the government to offer competitive compensation, as well as incentivize unemployed individuals to rejoin the workforce.

They said the submission

includes employees costs for the new Mental Health Docket, which is scheduled to go live this summer.

Castro and Naraja said the need to establish a mental health docket has been on the Judiciary's roadmap for quite some time. They said the urgency to implement one, however, became compelling in the wake of the pandemic, after having observed an uptick in cases involving individuals

with mental health issues.

They said the mental health docket is designed to provide participants intensive supervision by using problem-solving and non-adversarial models, connecting them to a variety of rehabilitative services and support networks for enhanced quality of life and to reduce recidivism.

The CNMI Supreme Court established the Mental Health Court Docket last July 3.

MCS alum, magna cum laude at Chapman, now a financial analyst for Goldman Sachs

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan resident and Mount Carmel School alumna Cathryn Jane Javier, who graduated from Chapman University with magna cum laude honors, is now a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs Ayco Personal Financial Management in Irvine, California.

Javier graduated from MCS in 2016 as her class' salutatorian and received an award for her academic achievement in math. She then went on to Chapman University in Orange, California, to major in Business Administration with a Finance emphasis and minor in Analytics, and was involved with various organizations there, most notably business

fraternity Delta Sigma Pi. Within the fraternity, Javier served at different times as vice president of professional activities, chancellor, VP of pledge education, and fraternity president.

Since graduating from Chapman University in December 2019, Javier has been working as a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs Ayco Personal Financial Management, where she does financial planning for high-net-worth clients and is working toward receiving her Certified Financial Planner certification.

When asked for comments and how she feels about graduating magna cum laude, Javier said she "feels good to have her hard work recognized," thanked her family and friends



Saipan resident and Mount Carmel School alumna Cathryn Jane Javier graduates from Chapman University with magna cum laude honors in December 2019.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

for their support, and advised Saipan's college prospects to start the college application process early and to "really research schools and make sure they fit your needs so you can make the best of it."



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 020
Re-Announcement

Opening Date: July 16, 2021 • Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Compliance Administrator
DEPARTMENT:	Administration Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; investigates alleged violations such as illegal connections; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Conduct or direct the internal investigation of compliance issues.
- Identify compliance issues that require follow-up or investigation.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Report violations of compliance or regulatory standards to duly authorized enforcement agencies as appropriate or required.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations relating to compliance.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs safety and compliance related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by oncall designation on alternating basis.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- Licensing:
 - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
 - Emergency Responder Certification (preferred)
 - Hazmat (preferred)
 - OSHA (preferred)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 050

Opening Date: July 29, 2021 • Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Technician
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Safety Office Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
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LPR applicants may now apply for SSN via application process

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recently announced that applicants filing for lawful permanent resident status are now able to apply for a Social Security number or replacement card as part of the adjustment of status application process.

Previously, these individuals had to apply for a Social Security number at a Social Security office. USCIS is revising Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, to include the additional questions needed to apply for an SSN or a replacement card.

"This expansion of our partnership with the Social Security Administration illustrates our commitment to operating our nation's immigration system more efficiently to save applicants time," said USCIS director Ur M. Jaddou. "Eliminating unnecessary bureau-

cracy and optimizing collaboration across public-serving agencies is a key priority for this agency and the Biden-Harris administration."

After approving Form I-485, in most cases USCIS will electronically transmit the data to the Social Security Administration. Upon receiving the data, the Social Security Administration will automatically assign an original SSN or issue a replacement card, as appropriate. This partnership with the Social Security Administration will not increase the filing fee for Form I-485.

This change to Form I-485 is effective immediately, and applicants can begin filing with the updated form today. USCIS receives about 576,000 Forms I-485 annually. (USCIS)

Nominate a Community Hero for Bridge of Light Award by Sept. 10

In an effort to honor and thank those who have helped victims, survivors, and the community in the movement to end violence in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is still seeking nominations for the prestigious Bridge of Light Award.

The Bridge of Light Award is NMCADSV's annual effort to honor the efforts and accomplishments of one extraordinary individual in the CNMI who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors.

Those eligible to be nominated include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI. The nominee must have been employed/volunteered for a minimum of one year and/or have demonstrated one or more extraordinary accomplishments to help sustain the movement. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a family member or friend of a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact

NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BO-LA2021WebLink>. The deadline to submit a completed nomination form is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.

Those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based only on the information provided on the form. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that those nominating provide specific details to thoroughly show why their nominee is deserving of the award.

The recipient of the 2021 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony slated for October. The award recipient will also be presented with the opportunity to attend a retreat or training courtesy of NMCADSV among other self-care prizes.

Past recipients include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, Karidat Social Services counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc. executive director Diana Camacho, the Attorney General Office victim advocate John Aguon, DYS director Vivian T. Sablan, and, most recently, DPS officer Rose Taman Rios.

For more information on the nomination process or sponsorship, contact the NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. (PR)

IPI to seek local workers once OK'd to resume construction

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC currently barred from hiring foreign workers, the company will be sourcing its workers from the local workforce once it is given the green light to proceed with the construction of its casino/resort project in Garapan.

In response to Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero's question during a recent CCC board meeting, IPI Human Resources director Reddie Dela Cruz said that IPI

will not be getting foreign workers just yet once project construction resumes. This is because IPI is banned from hiring H2-B and CW workers as the U.S. Department of Labor has barred the company from hiring foreign workers for five years.

However, since she is not in charge of IPI's finances and since everything is suspended right now, Dela Cruz said she has no idea where the money might come from if IPI is allowed to proceed with the construction.

When asked as to who may know where the money will come from, Dela Cruz said she

is not sure but maybe the company's Finance Department or IPI chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul.

Dela Cruz said IPI has only about 40 employees at present, mostly assigned to security.

She said there is also a small team from Finance that is handling payroll to ensure that everyone gets paid timely. "There's also all these legal matters that we are all pitching in to work on," she said.

On the HR side, she said they have not sought out any manpower agency, but that the construction team has had some discussion with local contrac-

tors. "But there's really no way for us to say when that's actually going to happen," she said.

Dela Cruz said she and the rest of the current employees are being paid on time, with the money coming from Hong Kong and that they are using IPI's local bank account.

Last January, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued a stop order at IPI's hotel/casino construction site—except for the administrative and security personnel—for violating a previously entered consent judgment and not paying IPI employees for over two months.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Climate warnings are no longer debatable. Fossil-fuel culture must change now

How many times must the world's scientific community warn that climate catastrophe is coming before the world's governments and citizens listen? A new United Nations report paints the most dire picture yet, predicting that the recent years' unprecedented increases in global average temperature—and resulting intensification of hurricanes, droughts, wildfires and rising sea levels—are edging toward the point where the climate damage will become irreversible. In America and around the globe, it's time to stop debating with those who ignore ominous facts and take action to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released Monday, isn't some scare tactic by a small klatch of agenda-driven activists. It's the work of more than 230 experts from around the world, drawing on information from some 14,000 studies. They conclude that humanity is barreling down a road that will ultimately lead to an unlivable planet if drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions aren't made immediately.

Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, which is produced by burning fossil fuels, trap the sun's heat so it can't radiate back out into space, raising temperatures in Earth's seas, air and land. Today, greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and average global temperatures are both at their highest levels in recorded history. Already, global average temperatures have risen by more than 1 degree Celsius (about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since the dawn of industrialization in the 1800s—a massive swing in a tiny span of time, by historical climate standards.

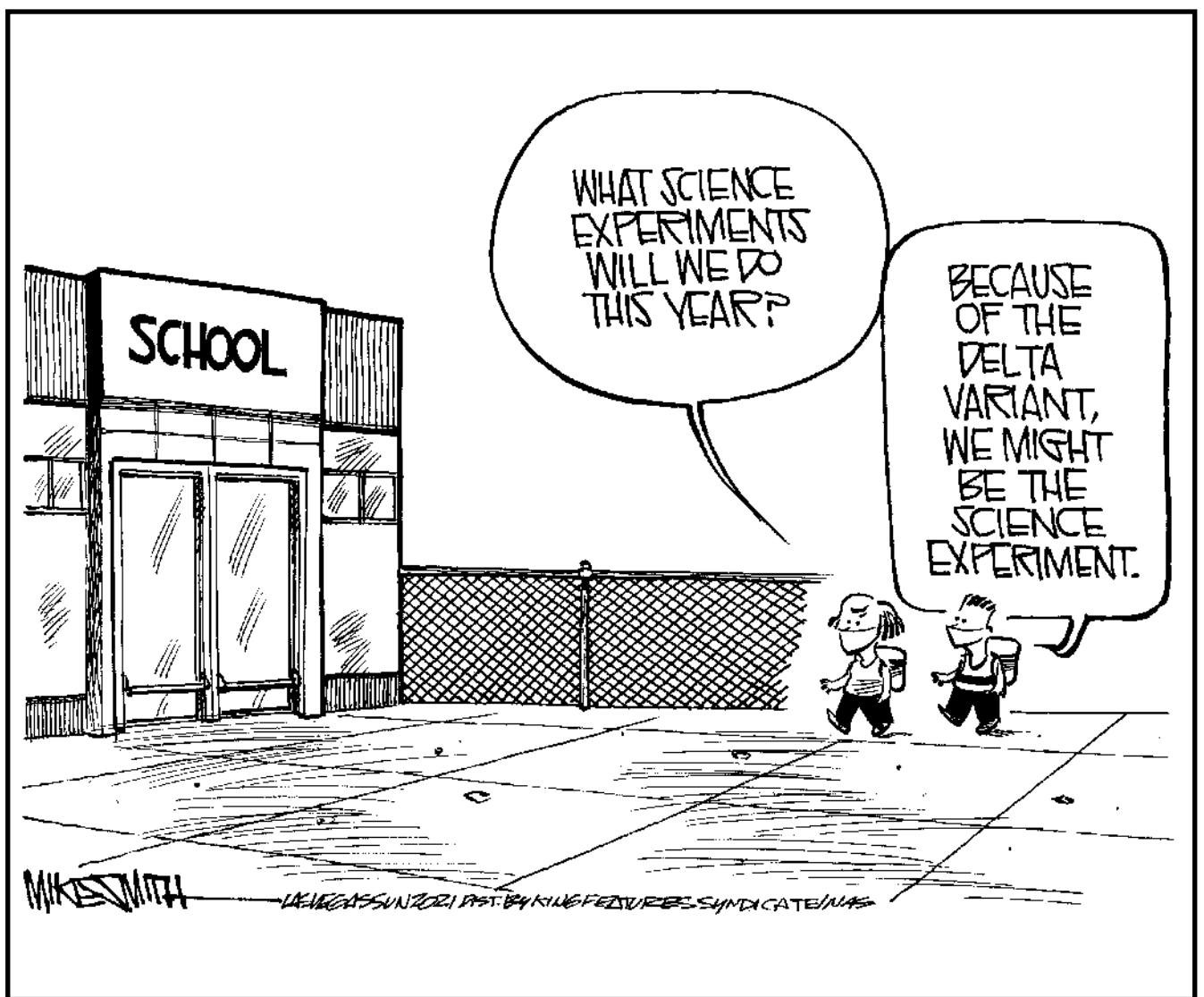
"Global surface temperature has increased faster since 1970 than in any other 50-year period over at least the last 2,000 years," states the report. The past decade has seen several of the warmest years on record.

Warmer air makes droughts and wildfires more frequent and more powerful. Warmer oceans intensify the strength of hurricanes. Melting sea ice is already raising sea levels globally, threatening infrastructure in coastal regions. These aren't theoretical dangers. They're happening now.

The report predicts average global temperatures by the 2030s will have risen by 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times, no matter what mitigation happens today. A rise much beyond that, it warns, could trigger a feedback loop in which greenhouse-gas levels rise on their own, produced by more frequent wildfires, melting permafrost and other self-perpetuating phenomena. That could put ever-rising temperatures beyond the capability of humans to stop it.

The U.S. is the world's second-highest producer of greenhouse gases, after China. America can't fix the problem alone, but the world can't fix it without a fundamental shift in American culture—a shift away from coal, oil, gasoline and other polluting energy sources, and toward renewable ones like wind and solar. America and the world face an existential threat of our own making. There is no longer a valid argument to be made for inaction.

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India isn't ready for another COVID wave

Memories of India's devastating second wave of COVID-19 are slowly receding. The pandemic has once again fallen out of the headlines; malls and mountain resorts are crowded with shoppers and tourists. Business activity is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, as it had been just before the second wave hit in March. In fact, just like then, many Indians seem to believe the worst of the pandemic is over.

But we can't be sure about that at all. Epidemiological models that predicted the second wave suggest that another, shallower wave might hit India as soon as this month. And the country isn't nearly as ready as it thinks.

Part of what is driving overconfidence is the particularly devastating nature of India's second wave: The broad spread of infection exposed a huge swath of Indians to the virus, who should thus now have some degree of immunity. Yet the simple fact is that we still don't know enough about the second wave to make easy predictions about the third.

What we do have is a series of surveys by the Indian Council of Medical Research sampling how many Indians have antibodies for COVID-19. There have been four such surveys, with 29,000 respondents in 700 villages across 21 of India's 28 states.

Results from the fourth survey, carried out in June and July, suggest that two-thirds of Indians have been exposed to COVID-19, up from roughly 24% in December and January. While that's a lot, it still leaves 400 million Indians without antibodies. A third or fourth wave might raise the overall death toll sharply.

To make matters worse, we still don't have a good grasp of how many Indians have died thus far. The federal government claims a death toll under half a million. Some models suggest the real number could be two to three million. Other estimates are even higher.

Economists at the Center for Global Development have estimated between 3.4 million and 4.7 million excess deaths in India during the pandemic—though not all may have been directly due to COVID-19. Some state governments have concealed deaths to bolster their reputations as COVID fighters.

This is a problem because without a clear sense of how and where the second wave was most virulent, we can't really figure out what a third will look like. The primary lesson of India's second wave was that local health care systems need to be bolstered before cases spike, or they will be easily overwhelmed. Without knowing who was affected in the past, we can't figure out where and who might be most vulnerable the next time around.

By MIHIR SHARMA

Bloomberg Opinion

Mihir Swarup Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and head of its Economy and Growth Programme. He is the author of *Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy*, and co-editor of *What the Economy Needs Now*.



Then there's India's stuttering vaccination program. A monthslong export ban on Indian-made vaccines has left the rest of the emerging world struggling to fend off the delta variant. It hasn't helped India all that much either. The government has tried to bully vaccine manufacturers into providing doses on the cheap. To ensure the companies can invest in more capacity, they've also allowed them to sell to the private sector at higher prices.

This strategy might have worked if private health care had any incentive to beef up the vaccine distribution system. Instead, the government then limited hospitals' margins, so only the largest private players have been interested. Meanwhile, state governments have consistently complained that they aren't getting enough vaccines to distribute themselves.

Vaccine supply is another bottleneck. The mRNA-based vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. appear to be more effective against the delta variant than others. Yet the government first ignored Pfizer and subsequently has been dickering with the company about indemnity clauses that most other countries signed months ago.

This means that India hasn't accepted any of the 110 million doses the U.S. has shipped to the emerging world. Millions of Moderna shots meant for India were held back in July. When U.S. and Indian leaders met months ago, they announced plans to fund the manufacturing of the Johnson & Johnson shot in India. There's been no obvious progress since then.

The other crucial lesson of the second wave, when the world rallied to get oxygen and medicines to India, was that no country, even one as big as India, can deal with the pandemic alone. India's establishment, which has turned inward on every front over the past few years, has chosen to forget that. India's slow vaccination effort, and a renewed vulnerability to COVID-19, is the price of this failure to learn.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is a free Cuba possible?

Is Cuba on the edge of a tectonic shift from Castroite communism to Western-style democracy? Until very recently, it would have seemed unthinkable. But when “Patria y Vida,” a music video sharply criticizing the situation in Cuba, becomes the anthem of massive street demonstrations, the impossible starts to sound possible.

Indeed, the demonstrations in Havana and dozens of other cities and the widespread popularity of “Patria y Vida” (“Home-land and Life”) suggest strongly that the Cuban people are fed up with the false promises of communism and are ready for a fundamental change in their politics and lives.

But are all the conditions present for such a dramatic change? One way of determining that is to compare Cuba with East Germany in January 1989 when the communist boss Erich Honecker boasted that the Berlin Wall would stand for another 100 years. In November of that same year, the Wall came tumbling down, and East Germans welcomed a new era of political and economic freedom.

East Germany was ready for a revolution because:

- It had suffered decades of economic decline and deprivation.
- Communist leaders admitted they no longer believed in communism, which had served as the ideological *raison d’être* for East Germany and the other communist satellites behind the Iron Curtain.
- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that Moscow no longer recognized the Brezhnev Doctrine and would not come to the aid of a faltering communist regime.
- Lutheran pastors sparked the massive public demonstrations that demanded the communist bosses relinquish their power and authority.
- U.S. and other Western sanctions helped reduce East Germany to the economic level of a third world country complete with rationing of food and clothing.

■ The courageous example of the pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square inspired East Germans, especially young people, to launch gigantic anti-communist rallies.

■ West Germany presented a compelling picture of how free enterprise and democracy can produce a free and prosperous country.

So, in comparison, what of Cuba today?

Cuba has been in serious economic decline since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which had provided billions of dollars in subsidies annually to the island nation. For a while, Venezuela under the Chavez/Maduro regime had propped up Cuba, but Venezuela is now suffering more economically than Cuba. As a result, basic goods are strictly rationed year-round in Cuba.

The rising generation does not care about Fidel Castro and Che Guevara and their vaunted “revolution.” What they know is that communism has failed to put bread on the table.

As never before, culture plays a key role in the politics of Cuba. Representative of the new culture is the San Isidro Movement, whose pro-freedom “Patria y Vida” music video has received more than 7 million YouTube visits in a nation of 11 million.

How successful the Cuban people can be when free is proven by the remarkable performance of the Cubans in Miami, one of the wealthiest communities in America. Their success is proof that freedom works.

What then are the differences between the communist Cuba of today and the East Germany of 1989?

Most Cuban communists still cling to Marxism-Leninism and Fidel Castro’s 60-year-old propaganda, a major source of their political power.

Cuban police are willing to use force and even bullets to break up “Libertad!” rallies and demonstrations.

Hundreds of dissident leaders are jailed and separated from

By LEE EDWARDS

The Heritage Foundation

Lee Edwards, Ph.D., is the Distinguished Fellow in Conservative Thought in the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).



the Cuban people.

So, some but not all of the necessary conditions are now present for a Cuban counter-revolution. There are things that the United States and its allies can do to further the cause of freedom and democracy in Cuba.

The U.S. should maintain the economic sanctions against Cuba, for the best of reasons: They expose the inability of the communists to provide the people with basic necessities.

The U.S. should demand the immediate release of Maykel “Osorbo” Castillo and Louis Manuel Otero Alcantara, the leaders of the San Isidro Movement and the artists of “Patria y Vida,” as well as the hundreds of demonstrators who were arrested.

The U.S. should form an international coalition of democratic nations that condemns communist Cuba for its crimes against humanity, past and present, and steps up international pressure for a free Cuba.

It may seem that a Cuba libre is not possible, but we must remember East Germany and the boast of its communist boss that the wall would stand for another century. The widespread July 11 demonstrations including the amazing popularity of “Patria y Vida” signaled that Cuba is at the beginning of the end of the communism that has oppressed it for six decades.

Fearmongering around sports conceals discrimination against the trans community

It’s only halfway through the year, but state lawmakers across the nation have already proposed a record-breaking number of anti-trans laws. Many of these laws seek to restrict transgender youth from accessing gender-affirming medical care and participating in sports.

In response, the California Department of Justice has added five states with anti-LGBTQ laws to the list of places where state employees cannot travel at taxpayer expense. Since 2017, the list has grown to 17 states.

Public support for the transgender community has increased since the Supreme Court guaranteed marriage equality in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but transphobic arguments persist because they prey upon people’s worst fears. In a video that went viral in June, a woman at Wi Spa in Los Angeles recorded her reaction and berated the staff after she claimed to have seen “a man go into the women’s section [and] show his penis.” Protesters clashed in the streets, two people were stabbed, and conservative pundits wrung their hands over the prospect of women and children being preyed upon by men who could pose as transgender women.

How many times have we heard this harmful and baseless trope about the transgender community? It echoes the same type of abuse that was hurled at gay men in the 1950s when people accused them of pedophilia.

Activists continue to say that transgender athletes will decimate women’s sports, a wild and outrageous claim. In reality, transgender people make up only 0.6% of the U.S. population, and there’s no indication that they’re going to be overtaking elite sports anytime soon. Transgender athletes have been allowed to compete in the Olympics since 2004, but this is the first year that we’ve had “out” transgender and nonbinary Olympians.

Granted, the science is contested as to whether transgender women athletes have a performance advantage. Research indicates that taking hormone suppressants doesn’t remove all the biological advantages of muscle mass and bone density, but lower testosterone also reduces oxygen capacity, which impacts an athlete’s endurance.

Dr. Eric Vilain, the director for the Center of Genetic Medi-

cine Research at Children’s National Hospital, has served as an adviser to the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission and played an integral role in helping the NCAA craft its policies on transgender athletes. He’s been public about his view that the new laws preventing transgender athletes from competing are not based on science.

It’s an oversimplification to say that transgender athletes are dominating cisgender ones, Vilain said, for a simple reason: “Sports is inherently unfair. Elite sports are all about advantages that come from so many parameters. For trans women athletes, exposure to testosterone has not been shown to provide an overwhelming advantage in most events.” Vilain said we look at Usain Bolt or LeBron James’ natural physiology and say they’re talented or gifted, and the advantages that transgender athletes may have are no different.

Laws and policies that restrict the participation of transgender women police all women’s bodies, said Kathryn J. Perkins, an assistant professor of political science at Cal State Long Beach who specializes in LGBTQ politics. Perkins says that anti-transgender policies are colored with racism and misogyny; transphobia begins to rear itself in anti-Blackness and sexist ideas about how women’s bodies should appear.

The NCAA and the International Olympic Committee have policies that set standards for testosterone levels in transgender athletes. In some cases, these regulations have also affected cisgender athletes. The most famous example is Caster Semenya, a South African female middle-distance runner born with XY chromosomes and high levels of natural testosterone, who was barred from competing in her best events at the Olympics. This year, two runners from Namibia were banned from competing in the 400-meter event at the Olympics. “[These regulations] are reinforcing essentialist gender binaries,” said Perkins. “It’s based on the idea that men’s and women’s bodies are opposite and non-overlapping and women’s bodies are weak and fragile and that they can’t compete in sports with tough men’s bodies.”

Meanwhile, the public debate mistakenly conflates elite sports with school-age children. New laws in Arkansas and Mississippi

By JIREH DENG

Los Angeles Times

Jireh Deng (she/they) is a 2021 summer Editorial Pages and Op-Ed intern at the Los Angeles Times.



and one being proposed in Florida target transgender youth in primary and secondary education. These laws claim to be rooted in fairness, but they’re only fueling antagonism toward the transgender community, which has been targeted with increasing violence. This year, the Human Rights Campaign recorded at least 31 transgender and gender nonconforming people who were victims of homicide, putting 2021 on track to exceed last year’s record total of 44 transgender people killed. A disproportionate number of these individuals were Black transgender women.

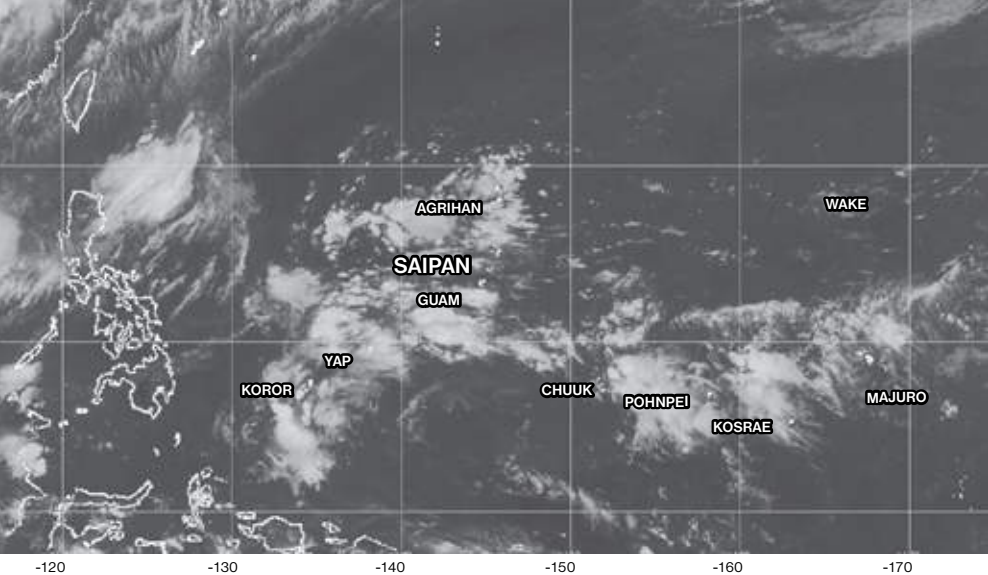
The lack of social acceptance is also one of the biggest factors affecting rates of suicide. Shelby Chestnut, the director of policy and programming at the Transgender Law Center, says that’s why the accurate and positive representation of transgender people is so important. “If you’re hearing negative messages about your entire existence, your rates of depression increase. Unfortunately the rates of suicide increase,” Chestnut said of at-risk transgender youth.

For athletes like Schuyler Bailar, being open about his journey is about hope. “I didn’t see anybody like me,” Bailar said of being a transgender Asian American man. Bailar made literal and metaphorical waves as the first transgender athlete to compete in Division 1 sports as part of the Harvard men’s swimming team. His social media presence has grown with his public activism; he shares infographics with over 300,000 followers aiming to affirm other transgender youth. “Now if you Googled transgender swimmer I pop up,” said Bailar. “[It tells kids] ‘Hey you belong here.’”

At the end of the day, the semantic debates and the politicization around transgender rights often erase the individuals—the kids who aren’t trying to compete for the Olympics, who just want to have fun. Let transgender kids be kids, and let them play on the teams they choose.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered light showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:55 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows an upper-level low near 18N148E. This low is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a broad area which includes all of the Marianas. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, on their way from 3 to 5 feet toward 2 to 4 feet. These seas are composed mainly of an east trade-wind swell with wind waves from a similar direction superimposed on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/presrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85 / 92 °F	
Palau	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F	
Yap	Afternoon clouds	80 / 90 °F	
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	80 / 88 °F	
Kosrae	Afternoon clouds	81 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Partly sunny	83 / 87 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:04 AM	9:31 PM	-
Friday	9:59 AM	10:12 PM	-
Saturday	10:54 AM	10:54 PM	-
Sunday	11:51 AM	11:40 PM	-
Monday	12:51 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	48 / 54 °F	
Beijing	Partly cloudy	74 / 92 °F	
Hong Kong	Heavy rain	81 / 87 °F	
Honolulu	Partly sunny	75 / 85 °F	
London	Showers	64 / 72 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly sunny	66 / 80 °F	
Manila	Partly sunny	79 / 92 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	40 / 56 °F	
Miami	Partly sunny	82 / 88 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	66 / 82 °F	
Osaka	Partly sunny	74 / 93 °F	
Paris	Showers	61 / 69 °F	
Pusan	Partly sunny	79 / 90 °F	
Rome	Partly cloudy	68 / 95 °F	
Salem	Sunny	56 / 89 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 65 °F	
Seoul	Partly cloudy	72 / 93 °F	
Tokyo	Morning clouds	76 / 89 °F	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	68 / 83 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:20 AM	Low Tide	1.05	
9:30 AM	High Tide	1.98	
4:23 PM	Low Tide	0.25	
10:52 PM	High Tide	2.07	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



2021 Miss Marianas Savannah Relox Delos Santos, center, welcomes passengers from South Korea at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on July 24, 2021. The Marianas receives three weekly flights from South Korea under a travel bubble with the country. **MVA**

US citizen children can apply for Medicaid benefit without inquiry into parents' immigration status

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in its guidance to Medicaid Agencies, states: "While states are often required to establish the citizenship and immigration status of applicants, they may not require applicants to provide information about any other person's citizenship or immigration status. For example, if a child is applying for Medicaid ...the state may not require disclosure of the citizenship or immigration status of non-applicant parents or other household or family members." <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pressrelease.pdf>

This longstanding policy continues in effect. The CNMI Medicaid Agency forms that state they want CW-1 documentation or other immigration status information do not apply to non-applicant parents of U.S. citizen children or to other non-applicant household members.

The Medicaid agency may

not ask about the immigration status of non-applicants. It may not require copies of CW-1 permits, affidavits, or other statements about the non-applicant's immigration status. It may not deny benefits because of the non-immigrant status or failure to prove status of non-applicants. It may not refuse to accept an application for Medicaid benefits on behalf of a U.S. citizen child as "incomplete" for failure of the non-applicant parents to provide information about their immigration status.

What foreign national parents of U.S. citizen children can do

It is important that parents, filling out the Medicaid forms for their U.S. citizen children, do not list themselves as the applicants, because this creates confusion. Applicants are those for whom Medicaid is sought. Non-applicant parents can sign as adult guardians or

representatives of their child or children.

It's also important to realize that the Medicaid Agency can still inquire about the financial contributions and circumstances of the non-applicant parents and household members.

CNMI Medicaid

"...U.S. citizens of the CNMI are Americans and should be treated and provided the same opportunity to receive Medicaid service as any other American in the states. All Americans should be treated the same..." said Helen Sablan, CNMI Medicaid director, in her March 15, 2021, written testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If you need legal help in the CNMI with Medicaid or other public benefits, you may be able to get help at the Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. at (670) 234-7729/6243. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374
Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO. RFP21-GOV-147

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply, Delivery, and Installation of a Generator Set and Renovation of the Generator House for the Office on Aging in Saipan"

The project package will be available beginning **Thursday, July 29, 2021** at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Saipan Office on Aging Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply for this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/S/ David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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/S/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/S/ David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance

Force, we are pleased that all of our visitors have been able to enjoy their stay in the Marianas, arriving and leaving COVID-free," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakaopo. "While continuing to prioritize the safety of our community, we warmly welcome visitors to experience all that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer as a tourist destination, and our

airport greetings are the first impression for that exciting experience."

Indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian dances are performed for the weekly flights of T'Way on Thursdays and of Asiana Airlines and Jeju Air on Saturdays. Savannah Relox Delos Santos, the 2021 Miss Marianas, also greeted passengers on the first TRIP flight on July 24, 2021. **(PR)**



Passengers from South Korea are greeted at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian dancers on July 24, 2021. **MVA**

Rotary seeks to boost women membership

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan hopes to continue increasing its number of women members moving forward, said club president Ivan Ilmov on Tuesday.

Further motivating this goal is the Rotary Club International's theme for the 2021-2022 Rotary year, "Serve to Change Lives," with the goal to get more women involved with Rotary Clubs globally.

Ilmov said the club has always been and will re-

main inclusive. "We are for [equality] for everybody—the Rotary Club of Saipan does not have any [preferences] for religion, politics, or any other preference. We are open for all members, and we are trying to make it equal for our women [members] also," said Ilmov.

When asked how the club will boost women membership, Ilmov said the club's approach for the past few years has been from the inside-outward, first reaching out to the spouses of Rotarians and followed by others within a

Rotarian's circle. "You always start with your family, your village, your town, that's how it goes. Bringing in people who we know is a top priority, [because it's important] you bring somebody who will be able to dedicate their time, knowledge, and passion," said Ilmov.

Ilmov highlighted double past president Curtis Dancoe and his spouse, past president Sonya Dancoe, for their contributions to the club, and described them as the "initial" examples of this inside-outward approach.

BANGLADESH YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB I N V I T A T I O N

AUGUST 13, 2021, FRIDAY AT 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: CAROLINIAN UTT, GARAPAN, SAIPAN

WE ARE INVITING ALL BANGLADESH COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR A BANGLADESH YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB CELEBRATION.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!

ORGANIZED BY:
BANGLADESH YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB
PRESIDENT: AKHIL MOLLIK
SECRETARY: MD HABIBUR RAHMAN

CONTACT PERSON: MD A. ISLAM: 670-285-4466
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-MOTA-124

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"TINIAN TENNIS COURT RENOVATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, SAN JOSE VILALGE, TINIAN & THE TINIAN LIAISON OFFICE, NAVY HILL RD., SAIPAN, A \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE FOR THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED.

A PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE INSPECTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS ON **AUGUST 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE PROJECT SITE, SAN JOSE, TINIAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. RAENA CABRERA, PROJECT MANAGER, VIA EMAIL TO rcing10@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **AUGUST 19, 2021**. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcr.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: August 12, 2021

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding proposed regulations for gear requirements of longline fishing operations. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: <https://dcr.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NMFS-Longline-Gear-CZMA.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcr.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on August 12, 2021 and ending on August 27, 2021. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Business

Saipan-born Adriano is now the GM of a Hyatt property

Claudia C. Adriano, who was born and raised on Saipan, is now the general manager of the Andaz San Diego in California, a “luxury, lifestyle, and leisure brand” under the Hyatt Corp. umbrella hotels.

Hyatt Corp. announced Adriano’s promotion to general manager at Andaz San Diego last week on Aug. 5, 2021.

Adriano, who is the daughter of Margaret F. Camacho-Castro from Saipan and the late Antonio G. Adriano from Tinian, worked in several Hyatt properties in many capacities. She began her Hyatt career in 2006 at the Hyatt Gainey Ranch Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ as an assistant executive housekeeper. Her ascension continued to front office manager opening team at Hyatt Olive 8 in Seattle, WA and on to Hyatt Regency Bellevue within the same city as they expanded. In 2012, she joined Hyatt Regency New Orleans, LA as the executive housekeeper, later promoted to assistant



Adriano

rooms executive. In 2016 she was promoted to general manager at Hyatt House within the same city. In 2018, she was elevated back to director of rooms at Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA. In 2020, Adriano took on dual role responsibilities as general manager for Hyatt House New Orleans, 200 guestroom property and director of rooms for Hyatt Regency New

Orleans, LA, 1193 guestroom property.

“We the Hyatt Regency Saipan family read with great pride about Claudia C. Adriano’s career accomplishments. She is a rising star in the Hyatt Corp. and has always represented Saipan with great humility and class. She was very kind to reference the Hyatt Regency Saipan as having been a part of her and her family’s life growing up in her promotion interview and announcement,” said the Hyatt in a statement.

The statement also made a push for the extension of the Hyatt Regency Saipan lease in Garapan.

“The irony of Claudia’s ascent is not lost on us. While Claudia’s accomplishments have highlighted Saipan within the Hyatt family and the rest of the hospitality world, here at home the Hyatt Regency Saipan’s future hangs in the balance. We hope the Hyatt Regency Saipan lease will get its final approval so that the next generation of Saipan will have the opportunity to follow in Claudia’s footsteps and

make it big in the Hyatt World, and they can start right here at home,” the Hyatt statement said.

“Claudia, on behalf of the staff and management of Hyatt Regency Saipan, we would like to congratulate you on your past accomplishments and your new role as general manager at the Andaz San Diego. You continue to make us proud,” the statement adds. (PR)

Big win for \$1T infrastructure bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a robust vote after weeks of fits and starts, the Senate approved a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan for states coast to coast on Tuesday, as a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans joined together to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Joe Biden’s agenda.

“Today, we proved that

democracy can still work,” Biden declared at the White House, noting that the 69-30 vote included even Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

“We can still come together to do big things, important things, for the American people,” Biden said.

The overwhelming tally provided fresh momentum

for the first phase of Biden’s “Build Back Better” priorities, now heading to the House. A sizable number of lawmakers showed they were willing to set aside partisan pressures, at least for a moment, eager to send billions to their states for rebuilding roads, broadband internet, water pipes and the public works systems that underpin much of American life.

Gamblers lift US casino market to best year

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Gamblers anxious to hit the slot machines and table games in person after a year of coronavirus restrictions are lifting the U.S. casino industry to its best year ever.

But the great unknown is whether a new, more contagious variant of COVID-19 will slow an industry that is now winning money at a record pace.

Data released Tuesday by the American Gaming Association, the casino industry’s national trade group, show that America’s casinos had their

best second quarter in history, taking in \$13.6 billion.

The report also shows the industry has nearly equaled all the revenue U.S. casinos took in during 2020, amid widespread casino shutdowns and restrictions that lingered even after they reopened.

It is clear that 2021 could be the best year in history for U.S. casinos. The gambling halls are on track to surpass 2019 (\$43.6 billion) as the highest-grossing year ever. Nearly \$25 billion has been won during the first six

months of this year.

“These first half results are truly remarkable,” said Bill Miller, the association’s president and CEO. “COVID-19 is not yet in the rearview mirror, but I’m confident the record first half of 2021 has laid a strong foundation for the industry’s full recovery.”

The more contagious delta variant of the virus, which became a worsening problem at the end of the second quarter, now accounts for most new cases in the U.S.

Nation

Gov. Andrew Cuomo resigns

NEW YORK (AP)—Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his resignation Tuesday over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations in a fall from grace a year after he was widely hailed nationally for his detailed daily briefings and leadership during some of the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By turns defiant and chastened, the 63-year-old Democrat emphatically denied intentionally mistreating women and called the pressure for his ouster politically motivated. But he said that fighting back in this “too hot” political climate would subject the state to months of turmoil.

“The best way I can help now is if I step aside and let government get back to governing,” Cuomo said in a televised address.

The third-term governor’s resignation, which will take effect in



Cuomo

two weeks, was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment and after nearly the entire Democratic establishment had turned against him, with President Joe Biden joining those calling on him to resign.

The decision came a week after New York’s attorney general released the results of an investigation that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women.

Investigators said he subjected women to unwanted kisses; groped their breasts or buttocks or otherwise touched them inappropriately; made insinuating remarks about their looks and their sex lives; and created a work environment “rife with fear and intimidation.”

At the same time, Cuomo was under fire over the discovery that his administration had concealed thousands of COVID-19 deaths among nursing home patients.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, a 62-year-old Democrat and former member of Congress from the Buffalo area, will become the state’s 57th governor and the first woman to hold the post. She said Cuomo’s resignation was “the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers.”

The #MeToo-era scandal cut short not just a career but a dynasty: Cuomo’s father, Mario Cuomo, was governor in the 1980s and ‘90s,

Sexual harassment at work

% saying each is — when it comes to sexual harassment and assault in the workplace

	A major problem	A minor problem	Not a problem
Men getting away with committing sexual harassment/assault	50	35	14
Women not being believed	46	34	18
Employers firing accused men before finding out all the facts	34	39	26
Women falsely claiming sexual harassment/assault	31	45	22

Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

DK/NA not shown

and the younger Cuomo was often mentioned as a potential presidential candidate. Even as the scandal mushroomed, he was planning to run for reelection in 2022. Republicans exulted in Cuomo’s departure but still urged impeachment, which could prevent

him from running for office again. “This resignation is simply an attempt to avoid real accountability,” state GOP chair Nick Langworthy said.

At the White House, Biden said: “I respect the governor’s decision.” At the same time, he said Cuomo had “done a helluva job” on infrastructure and voting rights, and “that’s why it’s so sad.”

Hochul prepares for spotlight

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Kathy Hochul, a western New York Democrat unfamiliar to many people in the state even after six years as its lieutenant governor, was set to begin reintroducing herself to the public Wednesday as she prepared to take the reins of power after Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced he would resign from office.

Hochul, 62, in two weeks will become the state’s



Hochul

first female governor, following a remarkable transition period in which Cuomo has said he will stay on and work to ease her into a job that he dominated over his three terms in office.

She stayed out of public sight Tuesday but said in a statement that she was “prepared to lead.” Hochul planned to hold her first news conference Wednesday afternoon at the State Capitol, in the very room where Cuomo became a familiar face to people across the U.S. and beyond for his televised briefings on New York’s fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Cuomo, 63, announced Tuesday that he would step down rather than face a likely impeachment trial over

allegations that he sexually harassed at least 11 women, including one who accused him of groping her breast.

Cuomo has continued to deny that he touched anyone inappropriately, and said his instinct was to fight back

against claims he felt were unfair or fabricated. But he said that with the state still in a pandemic crisis, it was best for him to step aside so the state’s leaders could “get back to governing.”

That job will fall to Hochul, who served briefly in Congress representing a Buffalo-area district, but purposely kept a modest profile as lieutenant governor in a state where Cuomo commanded—and demanded—the spotlight.

A seasoned veteran of retail politics, Hochul shares some of Cuomo’s centrist politics, but is a stylistic contrast with a governor famous for his love of steamrolling opponents and holding grudges, state political veterans say. She’s well-liked by colleagues, who say voters shouldn’t confuse her quiet approach under Cuomo with a lack of confidence or competence.

World

Wildfires in Algeria leave 42 dead, including 25 soldiers

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—At least 25 soldiers died saving residents from wildfires ravaging mountain forests and villages east of Algeria’s capital, the president announced Tuesday night as the civilian toll rose to at least 17.

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune tweeted that the soldiers were “martyrs” who saved 100 people from the fires in two areas of Kabyle, the region that is home to the North African nation’s Berber population. Eleven other soldiers were burned fighting the fires, four of them seriously, the Defense Ministry said.

Prime Minister Aïmene Benabderrahmane later said on state TV that 17 civilians had lost their lives, raising the count of citizens from seven previously and bringing the total death toll to 42. He provided no details.

The mountainous Kabyle region, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Algeria’s capital of Algiers, is dotted with difficult-to-access villages and with temperatures rising has had limited water. Some villagers were fleeing, while others tried to hold back the flames themselves, using buckets, branches and rudimentary tools. The region has no water-dumping planes.

The deaths and injuries Tuesday occurred mainly around Kabyle’s capital of Tizi-Ouzou, which is flanked by mountains, and also in Bejaia, which borders the Mediterranean Sea, the president said.

The prime minister told state television that initial reports from security services showed the fires in Kabyle were “highly synchronized,” adding that “leads one to believe these were criminal acts.” Earlier, Interior Minister Kamel Beldjoud traveled to Kabyle to assess the situation and also blamed the fires there on arson.

“Thirty fires at the same time in the same region can’t be by chance,” Beldjoud said on national television, although no arrests were announced.

There were no immediate details to explain the high death toll among the military. A photo pictured on the site of the Liberte daily showed a soldier with a shovel dousing sputtering flames with dirt, his automatic weapon slung over his shoulder.

Dozens of blazes sprang up Monday in Kabyle and elsewhere, and Algerian au-



Burned trees are pictured near Tizi Ouzou some 100 km (62 miles) east of Algiers following wildfires in this mountainous region, Tuesday, Aug.10, 2021. AP

thorities sent in the army to help citizens battle blazes and evacuate. Multiple fires were burning through forests and devouring olive trees, cattle and chickens that provide the livelihoods of families in the Kabyle region.

The Civil Protection authority counted 41 blazes in 18 wilayas, or regions, as of Monday night, with 21 of them burning around Tizi Ouzou.

A 92-year-old woman living in the Kabyle mountain village of Ait Saada said the scene Monday night looked like “the end of the world.”

“We were afraid,” Fatima Aoudia told The Associated Press. “The entire hill was transformed into a giant blaze.”

Aoudia compared the scene to bombings by French troops during Algeria’s brutal independence war, which ended in 1962.

“These burned down forests. It’s a part of me that is gone,” Aoudia said. “It’s a drama for humanity, for nature. It’s a disaster.”

An opposition party with roots in the Kabyle region, the RCD, denounced authorities’ slow response to the rash of blazes as citizens organized local drives to collect bottled water and other supplies. Calls for help, including from Algerians living abroad, went out on social media, one in English trending on Twitter with the hashtag #PrayforAlgeria. Photos and videos posted showed plumes of dark smoke and orange skies rising above hillside villages or soldiers in army fatigues without protective clothing.

Climate scientists say there is little doubt climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is driving extreme events, such as heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods and storms. A worsening drought and heat—both linked to climate change—are driving wildfires in the U.S. West and Russia’s northern region of Siberia. Extreme heat is also fueling the massive fires in Greece and Turkey.

WORLD BRIEFS

Afghan officials: 3 more provincial capitals fall to Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials say three more provincial capitals have fallen to the Taliban, putting nine out of the country’s 34 in the insurgents’ hands amid the U.S. withdrawal. The officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the capitals of Badakhshan, Baghlan and Farah provinces all fell. The Afghan government and military did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The Taliban advance comes as U.S. President Joe Biden has ordered all U.S. troops out of the country by the end of the month.

Thai police fire rubber bullets, tear gas at virus protest

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police clashed for the second time in four days on Tuesday with protesters angry over the government’s handling of a coronavirus surge and a lack of progress in political reform. Lines of police, backed by trucks spraying jets from water cannons, fired tear gas and rubber bullets at scores of demonstrators in Bangkok. Protesters threw rocks and fireworks and set fire to a traffic police booth, sending flames and smoke billowing into the sky. The clashes continued into the evening in the same area—Din Daeng—where similar scenes played out last Saturday. Tuesday’s protest began as a “car mob,” with demonstrators driving to different points in the capital to get around restrictions on public gatherings and minimize the potential for the spread of the coronavirus. Some later broke away, leading to the confrontation with police.

Largest Hong Kong teachers’ union disbands amid crackdown

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong’s largest teachers’ union said it disbanded Tuesday due to the changing political climate, as the government continues its crackdown on dissent in the city. The Hong Kong government cut ties with the pro-democracy union last week and accused it of spreading anti-Beijing and anti-government sentiment. The split came hours after Chinese state media called the union a “malignant tumor” that should be eradicated. The Professional Teachers’ Union is the city’s largest single-industry trade union, with 95,000 members. “Regrettably, the changes in the social and political environment in recent years have forced us to think about the way forward, and some recent rapid developments have also put us under tremendous pressure,” the union said in a statement Tuesday.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Tita Travilla Gabredo

In her wew life, she will be greeted at the gates of heaven by her

Father:

Mother:

Brothers:

Extended Family:

†Manuel S. Gabrido

†Gracia T. Gabrido

†Henry T. Gabrido & Dante T. Gabrido

†Magdalena M. Cabrera & Marie Elaine Cabrera

Her memory will live on in the hearts and the lives of her:

Children:

Grand Children:

Siblings & In-laws:

Caretaker and Friend:

Christopher G. Cabrera

Marlon Dean G. Cabrera & Catherine Acera-Cabrera

Caleb Matthew Acera-Cabrera

Calen Marcel Acera-Cabrera

Cayli Mae Acera-Cabrera

Delma G. & Armando Cabrera and Family

Nenita G. & Tony Olimpo and Family

Ronnie T. And Aida Gabrido and Family.

Grace De Guia Enriquez

She is additionally survived by numerous family members (Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces & Godchildren)

She will be greatly missed by her Marianas High School Dolphin family & Carmen Safeway Meitetsu family). Special acknowledgement to CHCC Oncology Department: Dr. Peter Brett, Jonathan Holloway, Alex Johanson, Mary Lou Stevens, Tasia S. Bocago, Nurses: Salome Castro, Angela Figueroa, Porsha Palacios, Maria Priest, Mary Quinn Rozkydal

On Saturday August 14th, 2021, her body will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 6:45am to San Antonio Parish. Last respects and viewing will be between 7:30am-8:30am. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Your Thoughts, Presence And Especially Your Prayers Are Greatly Appreciated

Thank You, Si Yurus Marase and Maraming Salamat Po

THE FAMILY

Environment

Youth takes charge: Youth Congress backs plastic bag ban

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI is now only a couple of steps away from becoming plastic-free.

Last Tuesday, the House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass the Eco-Friendly Act of 2021 (House Bill 22-56), introduced by Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), which proposes a 10-cent fee for every plastic bag that is issued upon checkout in retail.

It will also lead to an eventual ban, where sellers will no longer be allowed to import, sell, or distribute plastic checkout bags, a year after it becomes law.

This ban on plastic bags is fully supported by the members of the 18th Youth Congress, which passed in June a bill to ban plastic bags on island.

Authored by Youth Congress speaker Cielo Citlalli G. Long, the CNMI Retail Plastic Bag Ban Act of 2021 (Youth Congress Bill 18-3) advances an outright ban on the use of plastic checkout bags in the CNMI once enacted, where all unused plastic bags are to be turned over to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

"Many individuals who reside in the CNMI value the importance of land," Long told Saipan Tribune in an interview. "Our consumption of single-use plastic destroys land that we cannot afford to give away, so ask yourself this question: Would you give land to your children...or would you rather waste it away due to comfortable usage of non-degradable plastic?"

In a study released by the Department of Public Works on the waste sort composition for April 2019, plastic makes up 16% of the waste generated here on island. This includes plastic bottles, mixed plastics, and bags and film. It ranked third along with other organics (also 16%), next to old corrugated cardboards (33%) and fiber (24%)—all of which, except plastics, decompose fast.

It's not just land space, Long said. By reducing the use of plastic bags, the community can limit harm being done to oceans and valuable marine life, she added.

"Billions of plastic bags end up as litter each year, and reducing the amount completely within the CNMI brings the population one step closer to improving the environment's overall welfare. This act manifests



Members of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress [from left] youth senators YuriHana Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto, Abriette Patience Taimanao Manglona, Easton Joel Cabrera Dela Cruz, Cielo Citlalli Gutierrez Long, and Liekeila'akata Tapua'ialupe Iakopo.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

but one avenue for a CNMI-wide effort to assist our global neighbors in the reversal of global warming and greenhouse effects that threaten to harm our environment."

Fast facts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stated that the CNMI's ocean economy employs up to 8,300 people annually, about 40 to 50% of the total local employment, contributing to about \$922 million to its annual gross domestic product.

"Like all concerns apparent in the

CNMI, its importance depends on how crucial our people believe it to be. The California Plastic Bag Ban reduced plastic bag consumption by 71.5%. With this example of progress, our islands should not have to suffer any longer. There is no doubt that the adverse impacts of plastic bags are undeniable. With that said, I believe its necessity has no timeline," Long said.

"As the youth, our future is the most at stake, therefore it is important to not only spread awareness but to take ac-

tion to prevent further harm being done to the environment," Long added.

Long's bill states that the Youth Congress recognizes the ongoing threat to marine and terrestrial animals due to discarded non-compostable plastic bags, and with the billions of plastic bags ending up as litter each year, reducing this completely within the CNMI brings us a step closer to improving the environment's overall welfare.

The CNMI's youth are definitely taking charge, and we should expect to see more environmental bills from them to come our way, according to Long. "The Youth Congress addresses problems/concerns in all areas. My focus has always been on environmental awareness, so there is no doubt that future bills are in the making. For those who want to express their concerns for the environment, feel free to contact us on any of our platforms, and we will be more than happy to address your needs."

For more information, and to reach out to the members of the CNMI Youth Congress, email youthcongress@cnmileg.net, or check out their Facebook account (18th CNMI Youth Congress).

UOG study explores traits that make coral species resilient to climate change

Researchers from the University of Guam will examine how the structure of the island's coral reefs may be affected by climate change through a study that aims to identify species-specific responses to environmental change.

The Common Garden Project, funded by the university's National Science Foundation EPSCoR grant, will study three habitat-forming coral species dominant throughout the island's shallow reef flats.

"We hope to learn about which of these species and their color morphs have characteristics that may confer better resilience to climate change," said Laurie Raymundo, interim director of the UOG Marine Laboratory and professor of marine biology. "That will allow us to examine why they're doing better and why some of them aren't doing as well. Eventually, we may be able to make some predictions about how Guam's reefs may change in the future."

Cuttings of each coral species and color morph were planted in the Piti Marine Preserve and will be monitored for the next four years. The plots will be checked biweekly during the bleaching season from July to October and monthly from November to June when sea surface temperatures are cooler.

"In most cases, people conduct an experiment for a whole sea-

Guam NSF EPSCoR graduate research assistant Colin Anthony, left, and assistant professor of bioinformatics Bastian Bentlage place coral fragments for the Common Garden Project.

GUAM NSF EPSCOR



son," said UOG assistant professor of bioinformatics Bastian Bentlage. "There are not a lot of datasets—especially over a multi-year span—that look at individual corals and really provide data on how they get stressed and recover, and follow the long-term effects of experiencing that stress."

Using the data collected from the experiment, a team of UOG mathematics professors and students will model disease transmission and stress responses to support reef management and intervention strategies.

"We hope to gain a better understanding of what Guam's reefs will look like in the future and what kind of traits lend themselves to coral resilience so that we can implement control measures that will result in a healthier coral reef ecosystem," said UOG Associate Professor of Mathematics Leslie Aquino. "The cross-collaboration between the math and marine laboratory teams sparked new ideas and provided both groups with a better understanding of how these models and coral reef ecosystems work."

At the end of the experiment, each of the plots will be left to grow into new reef assemblages as part of a permit agreement with the Guam Department of Agriculture. (PR)

Guam NSF EPSCoR lead researcher Laurie Raymundo, left, and Guam NSF EPSCoR graduate research assistant Grace McDermott plant coral fragments for a study that aims to identify species-specific responses to environmental change.

GUAM NSF EPSCOR

Guam NSF EPSCoR graduate research assistant Colin Anthony trims a coral cutting for the Common Garden Project.

GUAM NSF EPSCOR

Life & Style

In Dubai, Filipina pulls no punches in jokes on Mideast life

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Peering out into the darkened audience of a Dubai bar, comedian Imah Dumagay leaned into the microphone and addressed the mistaken perception that many people have across the Middle East when they see a Filipina at a nightclub.

"I am from the Philippines but I am not taking any orders tonight," she said, drawing chuckles as her countrymen served beers and bar food at this rooftop bar in sight of Dubai's sail-shaped Burj Al-Arab luxury hotel. "Where is that guy asking for water earlier? Sir, we are not all waitresses."

She waited a beat and added: "But if you're looking for a maid, I'm available on Saturdays. I'm very good at cleaning; I clean from the ceiling down to your jewelry box."

Tucked within her slightly risqué set, Dumagay's rapid-fire punchlines offer an unfiltered glimpse into the life, sly triumphs and slights faced by

her 2.2 million compatriots. They care for children, wait tables and otherwise power economies across the wider Middle East. Those Filipinos provide billions of dollars in remittances back to their families still living in the Philippines, but face abuse and isolation in countries that often treat them as a disposable, low-paid workforce.

"I want to kind of be a voice for them," Dumagay told The Associated Press before her recent set. "When you use your platform, you send a message to people. Comedy is a great method to send your message across."

Dumagay, 38, of Mindanao, Philippines, worked in Dubai for years before deciding to leave her job to pursue comedy full time. That's not an easy task in this skyscraper-studded tourist destination where most bars and nightclubs focus more on drinks and music than variety shows.

The city-state also focuses



Filipina comedian Imah Dumagay performs stand-up comedy at an open-mic night at the Hi Five Restaurant & Lounge in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. Tucked within her slightly risqué set, Dumagay's rapid-fire punchlines offer an unfiltered glimpse into the life, sly triumphs and slights faced by her 2.2 million compatriots working in the Middle East. They send billions of U.S. dollars in remittances back to their families still living in the Philippines, but live in countries that often treat them as a disposable, low-paid workforce.

(AP PHOTO/JON GAMBRELL)

more on importing A-list American, British and Indian comedy acts given the city's

vast foreign workforce. Some topics remain taboo in this hereditarily ruled country of seven sheikhdoms, where speech is strictly governed.

But there is a burgeoning local scene here, as seen on Sunday at the Hi Five Restaurant

& Lounge. A United Nations of amateur comedians took the stage to varying degrees of success in sets touching on the scatological to the societal. An Emirati with dyed blonde hair even had 10 minutes, referring to his tight ripped jeans and

Stevie Nicks cancels all 2021 performances over coronavirus

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Nicks has canceled five forthcoming performances at music festivals, citing coronavirus concerns, she said in a statement Tuesday.

Nicks had been scheduled to headline one day each of BottleRock Napa Valley in California and the Jazz Aspen Festival in Colorado in September. In October, she was to have played two days of the Austin City Limits Music Festival and one day of the New Orleans Jazz and Heri-

tage Festival.

The dates were all the shows she had planned for 2021.

"These are challenging times with challenging decisions that have to be made. I want everyone to be safe and healthy and the rising Covid cases should be of concern to all of us," the 73-year-old singer said in the statement. "While I'm vaccinated, at my age, I am still being extremely cautious and for that reason have decided to skip the 5 performances I had planned for 2021."

Most of the festivals themselves are moving forward with replacement headliners. Country star Chris Stapleton will take Nicks' place at BottleRock.

"Because singing and performing have been my whole life, my primary goal is to keep healthy so I can continue singing for the next decade or longer," Nicks' statement said. "I'm devastated and I know the fans are disappointed, but we will look towards a brighter 2022."

Female filmmakers denounce Spanish cinema prize for Depp

MADRID (AP)—Spain's leading group of female filmmakers on Tuesday condemned the San Sebastian film festival's decision to award Johnny Depp its highest honor, saying it gave the international event a bad name after a British judge ruled last year that allegations of domestic violence against the actor were "substantially correct".

Cristina Andreu, the President of Spain's Association of Female Filmmakers and Audiovisual Media, said she was "very surprised" by the decision, announced Monday, to award Depp the Donostia Award at the festival's 69th edition next month. The award is the event's top prize and aims to honor lifetime achievement.

"This speaks very badly of the festival and its leadership, and transmits a terrible message to the public: 'It doesn't matter if you are an abuser as long as you are a good actor'," Andreu told The Associated Press.

The association, which has close links to the San Sebastian festival, was "studying next steps," she added.

'New' father insists baby girl be kept a secret

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Nathan," and I met in college 12 years ago. At the time, he was helping to raise a child he thought was his. He was crazy about his son, "Joey." Everywhere we went, he would show him off, post pictures of them together on social media and talk about Joey nonstop.

When Joey turned 9, Joey's mother finally told Nathan that Joey was not his son. When a DNA test proved it was true, the stuff hit the fan. Not only had the mom known from the beginning that Joey wasn't Nathan's, it turned out so did his family and all his friends. It took a while for Nathan to overcome the shock. Once he did, he decided he wanted to start a family. He proposed to me, and we welcomed our baby girl. (I never cheated on him, but to avoid any doubts he might have, once she arrived, we did a DNA test.) Nathan has her spoiled rotten.

The problem is, he acts very peculiar where she is concerned. Before she was born, he wanted few people to know we were expecting. He said it was because he didn't want to get everybody's hopes up in case anything went wrong, which was understandable. Now our baby is 3 months old, and he's still keeping her a secret.

He doesn't want to take family pictures and doesn't post her on social media like he did with Joey. He has asked his family and friends and even me not to tell anyone about the baby, and he gets mad if we do. When I asked why he's acting this way, he said it's because our child is "nobody's business." I love Na-

than, and I understand that he was hurt once, but I'm starting to wonder. Is my fiancé ashamed of our child?

CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT

DEAR CAN'T: I don't think Nathan is ashamed of his daughter. He may be being overly careful about news of his baby girl because he was so badly burned. He went overboard posting pictures and talking nonstop about his "son"; this time he has gone overboard in the opposite direction. Could this have anything to do with a fear that Nathan's ex will find out he has another child? You won't know unless you ask him. Between you and me, unless you're willing to go along with this secrecy business—which I don't think is healthy—your fiancé should be urged to consult a licensed psychotherapist who can help him regain his balance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 13 years. He is a kind of optimist. After a night of arguing and distancing, the next day he acts as though nothing has happened. He texts me from work, "Hey Babe! Good morning. I love you." Our arguments are not screaming matches but little spats that bother me a lot. Am I just a nagging wife?

FIGHTING MAD IN NEW YORK

DEAR FIGHTING MAD: Not necessarily. Your husband may get past these fights faster and more completely than

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



you do. However, if his way of dealing with unresolved issues is to pretend they don't exist, I can understand your frustration. If this happens often, a text the next morning isn't going to improve the situation. Your communication problem won't improve until you both agree to talk about this with a marriage and family therapist. If he is not willing to do that, you might find a few sessions for yourself helpful.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



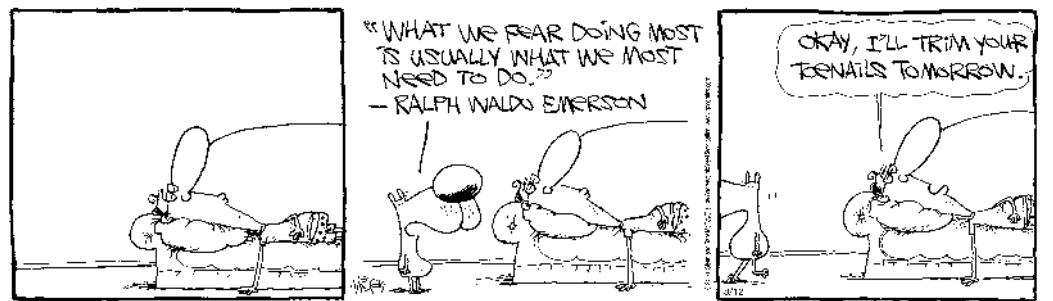
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Experts
5 Dispensed candy
8 Unwanted email
12 Volcanic flow
13 Chowd down
14 Apple center
15 Gas co., for one
16 Light touch
17 October birthstone
18 Famed Florentine family
20 URL opener
22 Coral reefs, e.g.
26 Zodiac dozen
29 Annoy
30 Pair
31 Latin 101 word
32 Hosp. workers
33 Ballet attire
34 More (Sp.)
35 Air safety org.

DOWN

36 Wind-shield cleaner
37 Some EPA scientists
40 Booty
41 Take on
45 First bed
47 Unwell
49 "Exodus" author
50 Barn roof spinner
51 Silent
52 Lawman Wyatt
53 "The — of March"
54 Actress family
55 Do in

1 Purple fruit

2 Assess
3 "Meta-morphoses" poet
4 Note-worthy
5 Barbecue site
6 JFK info
7 Light breezes
8 Composer Joplin
9 Appeared suddenly
10 Altar constellation
11 Actor Ferrer
19 Includes in an email
21 "For shame!"
42 Russian river
43 Actress Sorvino
44 Glimpse
45 106, in old Rome
46 "Awesome, dude!"
48 Candy-heart word

23 Mideast peninsula
24 TV remote button
25 Tart
26 "Ditto"
27 Computer debut of 1998
28 Tank filler
32 E.L. Doctorow
33 Sneezer's needs
35 Egg — yung
36 Oz., lb., et al.
38 Off-pierced ear areas
39 Hayek of "Frida"
42 Russian river
43 Actress Sorvino
44 Glimpse
45 106, in old Rome
46 "Awesome, dude!"
48 Candy-heart word

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Imani Hakim, 28; Cara Delevingne, 29; Pete Sampras, 50; Peter Krause, 56.

Happy Birthday: Determination will help turn your dream into a reality. Examine the changes going on around you, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you take advantage of the circumstances that unfold. Consistency, preparation and working alongside individuals you trust will give you the strength and courage to move forward quickly and efficiently. Protect your interests. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 25, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in something that motivates you. The opportunities that develop will help you make a change that will allow you to use your skills more efficiently and to accomplish goals that support your beliefs. Align yourself with like-minded people. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have impact on others if you address issues that concern you. How you deal with rigidity will determine who offers to help you make a difference. Love and romance are prominent. Enjoy the company of someone special. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Bypass anyone who brings you down or holds you back. Focus on the here and now and what you can do to advance. Learn through experience, and leap in a direction that offers security and peace of mind. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful how you handle investments and domestic affairs. Channel your energy into getting the most for the least and building equity and stability. Your efforts won't go unnoticed, and the outcome will be better than anticipated. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An offer will have pros and cons. Pay attention to the small but essential details that can alter the outcome. Don't take an unnecessary risk. Protect against unrealistic promises and pushy people. Choose to go solo over a joint venture. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your heart and soul into the people and pastimes that bring you the most joy. Spend time nurturing and exploring life, love and happiness. Enrich your day by choosing to have a positive attitude. Bring about beneficial change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't make the same mistake twice. Do what's necessary to encourage better results. Indecisiveness will be your downfall. Evaluate your situation, gather information and make your move. Financial gain is within reach if you act. Do what needs to be done. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When opportunity knocks, open the door. Don't procrastinate when a decision can change your life. Embrace change, and enjoy the chance to experience something new and exciting. Use your imagination and follow the path to new beginnings. Physical change is favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Know what you are getting into before you make a move. Consider the cost, challenges, and opposition and how best to handle matters. Put a strategy in place, and you'll find it much easier to follow your heart and your dream. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of emotional matters before you get on with your day. It's essential to have a good understanding of how your decisions will affect the ones you love. An open dialogue will help you gain support and approval to move forward. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Size up your situation, then proceed with your plans. Look for alternative ways to get around any challenge you face. Listen to suggestions and incorporate them into your projects. A partnership will come equipped with benefits. Keep an open mind. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a moment to adjust what isn't working for you. How you handle money matters, people close to you, rules and regulations will set the mood for how things will unfold. Be honest with yourself and those you love. Romance is encouraged. ***

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, impulsive and persuasive. You are chatty and entertaining. ☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺ Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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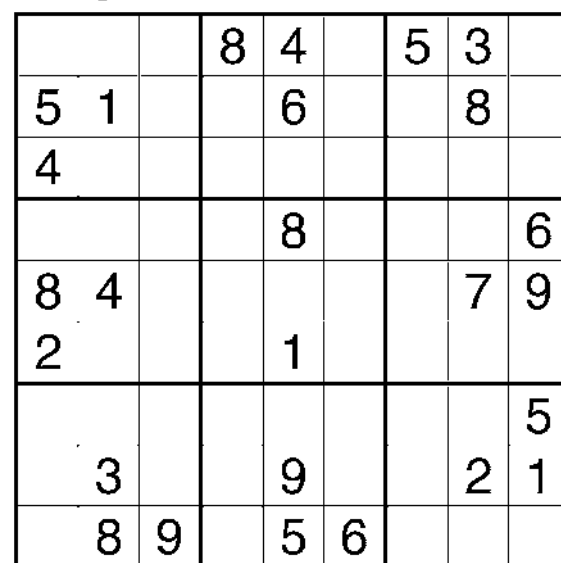
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SUDOKU

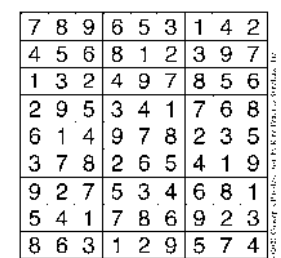
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

8/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEING ANODYNE

Solution: 9 letters



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8/12

Agreeable, Aloof, Boring, Carefree, Dally, Desolate, Discreet, Dozy, Drab, Dul., Easy, Empty, Feel, Flat, Gentle, Harmless, Humdrum, Lack, Lifeless, Luck, Mild, Monotonous, Mundane, Needs, Numb, Painkiller, Passionless, Peaceful, Private, Quiet, Remove, Routine, Safe, Silent, Simple, Stale, Tame, Terms, Tiresome, Toneless, Tranquil, Wearisome

Yesterday's Answer: Television

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Dodgers end Phillies' 8-game run with 5-0 victory



PHILADELPHIA
(AP)—Max

Scherzer and Aaron Nola had a pitchers' duel ruined by rain, and Corey Seager and Max Muncy homered as the Los Angeles Dodgers ended Philadelphia's eight-game winning streak, beating the Phillies 5-0 on Tuesday night.

Scherzer and Nola combined for 13 strikeouts over a combined 7 1/3 innings in a scoreless matchup before heavy rain delayed the game in the bottom of the fourth inning for 1 hour, 44 minutes. Neither star pitcher returned when the game resumed.

The gripping performances ended in a whimper and Phillies fans booed when reliever J.D. Hammer (1-1) headed to the bullpen to warm up at the end of the delay.

Seager hit a solo shot off J.D. Hammer (1-1) in the fifth inning for his fifth homer of the year. Muncy added his 23rd homer of the year in the ninth. Alex Vesia (2-1) got the win.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 7

In San Francisco, LaMonte Wade Jr. scored the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning when first baseman Christian Walker failed to handle Kris Bryant's sharp grounder, and San Francisco beat Arizona.

The Giants won their third straight and fifth in six games, doing it the hard way after going up 5-0 in the fifth.

Brandon Crawford hit a go-ahead double in the eighth and Buster Posey homered.

Asdrúbal Cabrera tied the game with a two-run homer in the Diamondbacks' five-run sixth.

Rangers 5, Mariners 4, 10 innings

In Seattle, Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Yonny Hernandez hit RBI singles in the 10th inning, and Texas snapped a 14-game road losing streak.

The Rangers rallied twice to snap their six-game losing streak, taking a 3-2 lead in the ninth on rookie Adolis García's 25th home run before a near-disastrous ninth by reliever Spencer Patton.

Patton walked three of the first four batters he faced to tie the game 3-all and load the bases with no outs. But he struck out J.P. Crawford and Mitch Haniger, and Brett Martin (3-3) got the third out to send the game into extras.

With Jason Martin starting the 10th on second base, Kiner-Falefa singled off Erik Swanson (0-2) and Hernandez brought home Kiner-Falefa with his own single.

Haniger and Kyle Seager hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning to become the



Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager follows through after hitting a double off Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Matt Moore during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, in Philadelphia.

AP

second pair of teammates with 25 homers apiece in the major leagues this season.

Padres 6, Marlins 5

In San Diego, Austin Nola hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning and San Diego sent Miami to its fifth straight loss.

Nola had two hits and two RBIs. He extended his hitting streak to a career-best nine games.

With the score tied 5-all and Adam Frazier on second base with two outs, Nola hit a sharp single to left field against Richard Bleier (2-2).

Mark Melancon notched his MLB-leading 34th save. Pierce Johnson (3-2) got the win in relief.

Braves 3, Reds 2

In Atlanta, Adam Duvall hit a two-run homer, Stephen Vogt's bases-loaded walk in the sixth forced in the go-ahead run and Atlanta beat Cincinnati in a matchup of second-place teams.

Drew Smyly (8-3) recovered after allowing a two-run home run to Aristides Aquino in the second inning to win his sixth straight decision. Smyly allowed two runs on only two hits and two walks and seven strikeouts in six innings.

Will Smith earned his 23rd save in 26 chances.

Heath Hembree (2-7) and Amir Garrett combined to walk three batters in the sixth, helping the Braves break a 2-2 tie.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

In Minneapolis, Willians Astudillo hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth inning off Dallas Keuchel, and Minnesota stopped Chicago's win streak at four games.

Rookie starter Griffin Jax (3-1) gave the Twins a career-high six innings, after falling behind 3-2 on consecutive homers by Adam Engel and José Abreu in the third. Jax

struck out a career-best 10 batters with only one walk.

Keuchel (7-6) gave up four runs in six innings with only one strikeout. The left-hander walked four in six innings.

Rays 8, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Tampa Bay's Francisco Mejía singled with the bases loaded in the ninth and Boston's Hunter Renfroe made a costly error on the play, helping the Rays extend their lead in the AL East to five games.

Mejía delivered a single to right. The ball skipped past Renfroe for an error and that allowed all three runners to score, giving Tampa Bay a 7-4 lead. The Rays added another run on Brandon Lowe's single.

The Red Sox lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

Brandon Lowe also homered for the Rays, who also got a two-run double from pinch-hitter Ji-Man Choi. Andrew Kittredge (8-1) pitched two scoreless innings of relief for Tampa Bay.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, J.A. Happ combined with a trio of relievers on a one-hitter, Tommy Edman and Paul DeJong homered early and St. Louis beat skidding Pittsburgh.

Happ (6-6) retired the first nine batters, then gave up rookie Hoy Park's first career home run to lead off the fourth inning. He struck out five and walked two.

Relievers Ryan Helsley, Genesis Cabrera and Alex Reyes combined for three hitless innings. Reyes pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save in 27 chances.

Rookie Dylan Carlson had three of the Cardinals' eight hits and scored a run.

Royals 8, Yankees 4

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez homered twice to set a career high with 29 this sea-

son, and Kansas City rallied to beat New York.

Perez put the Royals ahead with a two-run blast in the first inning and he tied the game at 4 leading off the sixth. It was the fourth multi-homer game this season and 10th of his career for Perez, who marked the 10th anniversary of his major league debut.

Royals reliever Josh Staumont (2-2) retired all four batters he faced, striking out three.

Nestor Cortes (0-1) allowed seven hits, five runs—four earned—and struck out five in 5 2/3 innings.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2, 1st game Brewers 6, Cubs 3, 2nd game

In Chicago, Luis Urías had two hits during a six-run fifth-inning rally as Milwaukee completed a doubleheader sweep of Chicago.

The nightcap was delayed for an hour, 29 minutes because of rain with one out in the top of the third, which limited starter Aaron Ashby to two scoreless innings. The Brewers then used six pitchers to complete the final five innings. Miguel Sanchez (1-0) threw one pitch to get the final out in the fourth inning for the win.

Patrick Wisdom homered for Chicago, which has dropped six straight.

In the opener, Freddy Peralta pitched effectively into the sixth inning and Avisail García smacked a go-ahead two-run homer. Willy Adames and Lorenzo Cain also went deep.

Angels 6, Blue Jays 3, 1st game Blue Jays 4, Angels 0, 2nd game

In Anaheim, Calif., Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit an early RBI single and Toronto earned a doubleheader split against Los Angeles.

Justin Upton and Phil Gosselin each had two hits and

two RBIs to help the Angels win the opener.

Toronto batted last and was the "home" team at Angel Stadium in the first game, a makeup from an April 11 rain-out at the Blue Jays' temporary home field early this season in Dunedin, Florida. In the regularly scheduled nightcap, the Angels were the home team.

Guerrero, who has 35 home runs, gave Toronto a 1-0 lead in the first with an RBI single and then scored on Teoscar Hernandez's bloop single. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. added a two-run single with the bases loaded in the sixth.

Guerrero had a huge fielding miscue in the first game when he misplayed Jo Adell's popup in the fifth inning. He was unable to track the ball behind first base and let it glance off his glove as two runs scored to extend Los Angeles' lead to 4-1.

Trevor Richards (1-1) worked two scoreless innings.

Los Angeles starter José Suarez (5-5) yielded four runs and seven hits with a walk and two strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

In the first game, Junior Guerra (3-2) got the win and Raisel Iglesias retired the side in the seventh for his 25th save.

Marcus Semien had three hits, including an RBI double, for the Blue Jays.

Steven Matz (9-7) went 4 1/3 innings for Toronto. He was charged with four runs (two earned) and six hits. The left-hander struck out five and walked three.

Athletics 4, Indians 3, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Jed Lowrie hit an RBI double in the 10th inning and Oakland extended its winning streak to five games.

Indians reliever Nick Wittgren (2-5) retired the first two batters in the 10th before intentionally walking Matt Olson. Lowrie followed with a double to left field, scoring automatic runner Elvis Andrus.

Lou Trivino (5-4) pitched a scoreless ninth and Andrew Chafin earned his first save of the season.

A's relievers Burch Smith, A.J. Puk, Yusmeiro Petit, Sergio Romo, Trivino and Chafin held Cleveland hitless for the final six innings.

Seth Brown homered, singled and stole a base for Oakland, which began its second 10-game road trip of the summer.

Amed Rosario and Myles Straw each had two hits for Cleveland.

Astros 5, Rockies 0

In Houston, Jake Odorizzi and four relievers combined on a five-hit shutout, Taylor Jones had a two-run double and Houston snapped Colorado's four-game winning streak.

Houston got to Colorado starter Jon Gray (7-8) in the fourth, scoring three runs. Chas McCormick had an RBI single, and Jones followed with his double. Jones and McCormick each finished with two hits. Michael Brantley had an RBI double in the fifth, and José Altuve added an RBI single in the sixth.

Odorizzi (5-6) scattered three hits and struck out three in five innings.

Tigers 9, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Willi Castro doubled, tripled and drove in three runs, and Detroit dealt Baltimore its sixth straight loss in a game that included a scary collision between two Tigers outfielders.

Center fielder Derek Hill and left fielder Akil Baddoo were shaken up after running into each other while chasing Anthony Santander's eighth-inning fly ball. Hill made the catch, and both left the game, walking off the field after a bit of a delay.

Miguel Cabrera singled and walked, and remained two home runs shy of 500. Casey Mize allowed three home runs and didn't make it out of the fifth inning, but the Tigers held on.

Detroit's bullpen was solid. Kyle Funkhouser (6-1), José Cisnero, Michael Fulmer, Buck Farmer and Gregory Soto held Baltimore without a run after Mize went 4 1/3 innings.

Nationals 3, Mets 1, suspended

In New York, the series opener between the Washington Nationals and New York Mets was suspended in the top of the second inning Tuesday night because of rain.

Washington is ahead 3-1 on the strength of a three-run homer from Juan Soto in his return to the starting lineup. Play will resume Wednesday at 4:10 p.m., and the game will remain scheduled for nine innings.

Russell Westbrook eager to help LeBron in Lakers homecoming

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Russell Westbrook was a Lakers fan from childhood, and he skipped school to attend their championship parades. After he became close friends with Kobe Bryant, they spoke about the responsibility and honor of playing for this decorated franchise.

Yet even after Westbrook became an NBA superstar with the autonomy now available to basketball's best players, he figured the timing would never be right to suit up for his beloved hometown team—let alone alongside two fellow superstars with a real chance to win his first championship.

"Some of these dreams don't come true for people like myself," Westbrook said.

After spending the last half-decade racking up spectacular numbers for teams with little chance of major success, Westbrook is joining the Lakers for his 14th NBA season. Los Angeles general manager Rob Pelinka pulled off a spectacular trade to team Westbrook with LeBron James and Anthony Davis on a reconfigured Lakers roster designed to win rings now.

When it came together over the past week, the 32-year-old Westbrook said he repeatedly found himself at a loss for words.

His broad smile said plenty when he held up his gold No. 0 jersey Tuesday alongside his parents and brother.

"Being from LA, you always wish that you could play for your home team," Westbrook said. "That's definitely



Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook poses for a photo with his jersey at an introductory NBA basketball news conference in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021.

something that always circled around in my mind. Maybe one day? But I always would come back and be like, 'Ah, that probably won't happen.' I just had to wait and see. But now that we're here, I'm going to take full advantage of it."

The Lakers believe they can take full advantage of both James and Westbrook, a pairing that seems potentially difficult. Westbrook famously is among the most ball-dominant players of his generation, while James has become an exceptional offensive initiator and point guard alongside his innumerable other skills.

Westbrook, who has several eponymous auto dealerships

in the Los Angeles area, is ready to play a complementary role to keep the Lakers on the road to a title.

"LeBron is one of the best players to play this game, and his ability to do everything on the floor allows me to just figure it out," Westbrook said. "I'm coming to a championship-caliber team, and my job is to make his game easy for him, and I'll find ways to do that. As it pertains to ball-handling, it really doesn't matter. There's many different ways you can impact the game without having the ball in your hands. I've been able to do that for a number of years, and we'll figure it out."

Westbrook's confidence is echoed by coach Frank Vogel, whose recent contract extension underlines Pelinka's faith in his ability to figure out how to win with this extremely talented, not-so-young roster. Along with Davis, Los Angeles will have three of the NBA's top five active scoring leaders with James (first), Carmelo Anthony (second) and Westbrook (fifth).

"Anytime you have three great players like this, there is an element of sacrifice required, and we've all talked about that and are all-in on that," Vogel said. "But these three guys can do it all. They're all make-the-right-

play players. It's not just about scoring or being a one-dimensional player. They can all do it all. I'm most excited about seeing what the three of them on the court at the same time looks like."

Westbrook's ability to create opportunities for his teammates is unquestionable: The nine-time All-Star averaged a triple-double last season in Washington for the fourth time in the last five years, leading the NBA in assists for the third time in four seasons with a career-best 11.7 while adding a career-high 11.5 rebounds.

Vogel expects Westbrook's ball-pushing ability to improve the Lakers on the fast

break, where they were a below-average team last season while Washington was the NBA's best. The Lakers' defense also will change markedly after they had the NBA's best last season.

But instead of keeping their core intact and hoping for better health after last season's team founded without the injured Davis, the Lakers made massive changes headlined by the departures of Caldwell-Pope, Kyle Kuzma and Montrezl Harrell to the Wizards.

"I think it was an opportunity to make an aggressive move that we felt like bettered our probability to bring the 18th title to the Los Angeles Lakers," Pelinka said. "We felt like this was an opportunity to maximize our ability to do what we're obsessed to do."

Alex Caruso, Andre Drummond, Ben McLemore and Markieff Morris are signing elsewhere, and Dennis Schröder is on his way out after turning down a hefty contract.

In their places are Westbrook, Anthony, Dwight Howard, Wayne Ellington, Trevor Ariza, Kendrick Nunn, Malik Monk and Kent Bazemore. The challenge of building a championship team nearly from scratch is enormous, but Westbrook feels prepared.

"The roster is great," Westbrook said. "A bunch of guys I've already known, which is even better. I'm always looking at the roster and figuring out how I can make other guys better, simple as that. I'll find ways to do that with the roster. I'm really looking forward to getting with the guys and figuring it out."

Doncic signs \$207M extension as Mavs turn focus to titles

Luka Doncic welcomed all his bosses with the Dallas Mavericks to his home country of Slovenia to watch the young superstar sign the richest contract in club history.

Now that the record rookie supermax extension of \$207 million is in the books, it's back to the business of trying to win for a franchise that hasn't advanced in the playoffs since winning its only championship 10 years ago.

"I'm proud of Luka," owner Mark Cuban said Tuesday as he sat next to his point guard during a news conference in Doncic's hometown, the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana.

"I've seen when he first came in, the pressure that was on him and the way he dealt with it, how hard he worked," Cuban said. "How he recognized that it was always about the team winning and that was what was most important to him. That was always most important to me, whatever we could do to win."

The Mavericks have the

most important piece of their next title pursuit under contract through 2026-27, although that final season in a five-year deal that starts in 2022-23 is a player option.

Doncic was eligible for the massive payday because he made the All-NBA first team twice, in his second and third seasons. At 22, he is the youngest in league history with multiple first-team selections.

"I still kind of don't know what to say because I never imagined this happening," Doncic said. "I was only dreaming of only playing in the NBA."

New general manager Nico Harrison made the trip along with new coach Jason Kidd. Both were hired after the firing of longtime GM Donnie Nelson in June, followed a day later by the resignation of coach Rick Carlisle.

Agent Bill Duffy acknowledged Nelson's role in targeting Doncic when he was a teenager playing for Real Madrid, and engineering the draft night trade in 2018 that sent

Doncic, the third overall pick, to Dallas while Atlanta got No. 5 selection Trae Young.

Kidd, the point guard when another European star in Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks to the 2011 title, once again tried to explain his role in helping Doncic find postseason success for Dallas again.

"I think when you talk about Luka's gift, he's a special player," Kidd said. "And for me, as a coach, it's just to guide him. Be an extra set of eyes and ears to make the game as simple and as easy for him on the court. To give him the answers to the test so that he can do what he does at a very high level."

Doncic put his name in the company of LeBron James with an early penchant for triple-doubles, and now sits 11th on that all-time list. The two-time All-Star has averaged 33.5 points in the playoffs with six 40-point games in two postseasons.

Both playoff trips ended in the first round against the

Los Angeles Clippers, and now Doncic is fresh off leading Slovenia to its first-ever Olympics in basketball and a fourth-place finish in Tokyo.

Kidd believes he can turn Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis into the European duo the Mavericks envisioned when getting the 7-foot-3 Latvian in a blockbuster deal with the New York Knicks. The Mavericks also just re-signed a secondary piece in that trade, shooting guard Tim Hardaway Jr., to a \$75 million, four-year contract.

Dallas also is bringing back fan favorite Boban Marjanovich, the 7-4 Serbian who has been one of the backups to Porzingis. He re-signed on Tuesday, when the club also announced the free agent addition of Sterling Brown, who played at nearby SMU.

Brown and Reggie Bullock are the two new options behind Doncic and Hardaway in the backcourt, a pair of shooting guards the Mavericks hope will help defensively. (AP)

Point guard Dennis Schröder says he's signing with Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Free agent point guard Dennis Schröder said Tuesday he is signing a one-year deal with the Celtics, ending his up-and-down one-year stint with the Lakers.

"I'm proud to announce that for the 2021-22 season I'll be playing with the Boston Celtics!" Schröder posted on Instagram. "This is one of the best franchises in NBA history and a honour to put on the green and white and do what I love! I'm going out there every night and leaving it all on the floor for the city!! Who's ready?!"

ESPN reported the pending deal with Boston is for the \$5.9 million mid-level exception. Schröder reportedly turned down a four-year, \$84 million extension offer from the Lakers during the season.

Schröder, 27, was dealt by

Oklahoma City to Los Angeles last offseason in a deal that netted the Thunder veteran Danny Green and 2020 first-round pick Jaden McDaniels.

But after averaging 19 points and shooting 47% from the field and 39% from 3-point range in his final season with the Thunder, Schröder saw those averages drop to 15.4 points, 44% from the field and 34% from 3 in Los Angeles.

He joins a Boston team that needed a point guard after trading four-time All-Star Kemba Walker and the \$74 million he was owed over the remaining two years of his contract to Oklahoma City. The deal gave the Celtics salary cap room and the return of big man Al Horford.

Celtics president Brad Stevens is trying to improve the roster for new coach Ime Udoka, whom Stevens hired in June as his successor.

HANMI thanks in-kind tournament sponsors



Dozens of companies have made in-kind contributions for this Saturday's 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

Glenn Policare, this year's tournament committee chairman, thanked the companies for their many and diverse donations toward the game and the raffle drawing to be held at the awards luncheon.

"For me, this is a special tournament during an extraordinary time," said Policare. "Our tournament was postponed past year for obvious reasons. We were hopeful to be able to raise support for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 this year and the response has been overwhelming! Thank you one and all!"

Topping the list of in-kind donors were Roil Soil and local radio stations Power 99, KCNM-KZMI, Magic 100.3 FM KWAU with donations worth \$2,000 or more. Marpac, Saipan Computer Services, Marianas Gran Services, Great Harvest, *Marianas Variety*, and Joeten Wholesale gave \$1,000 or more in goods and services. Rounding out the list are Coral Ocean Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Lohas Massage, Pacific Home Appliance, Tasi Tours & Transportation, The Hut (cash and in-kind), Stayhill Resort Saipan, Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, Star Sands Plaza (I Love Saipan), V-Kool Marianas USA, Saipan Snaps, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Rotary Club



Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney, donated close to \$2,000 in drinks and merchandise on Aug. 5 for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, Pudney, tournament committee member chair Glenn Policare, and MARPAC Sales manager James Lee. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



KCNM-KZMI station manager Bob Webb, right, donates \$2,000 in ads for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. Also pictured is tournament committee chair Glenn Policare. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

of Saipan, Nam Dae Moon, Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant, McDonald's Saipan, Monster Pizza, Pacific Insurance, KENT Ent., Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Boss Karaoke, Furusato Japanese Restaurant, Mariana Lighthouse, Umibozu Restaurant, Kuri-ya, Zoom Café, Chung Gi Wa Restaurant, Jang Gun Restaurant, Godfather's Bar & Restaurant, Café 670, Tribes Bar, Himawari Saipan, Matty's BBQ, Pacific Eagle, Java Joe's, Pacific Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, and D&Q Saipan.

"We at Marpac are happy to be a part of the upcoming

19th Annual HANMI Golf Tournament this weekend and are glad to see a portion of the proceeds benefitting next year's Pacific Mini Games," said Marpac Inc. resident manager Guy F. Pudney.

Golfers will have the chance to win several hole-in-one prizes, including a 2021 Toyota Camry LE from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2021 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, and a 2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors Company, and \$10,000 cash from United Equipment Rental.

The tournament fee of \$140 includes green fee and the awards luncheon, and regis-

trations are available at www.saipanhotels.org. For an additional \$30, players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

Deluxe Package Sponsors are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors are Grand Vrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort

one-month gym membership, half case of Michelob Ultra, and Michelob Ultra gear.

For the Pokka 4-Mile run, the first place finishers will each get \$50 tokens, a case of Pokka Juice and 3-month gym membership. The runners-up and third placers will each win \$25 tokens plus one case of Pokka Juice and two-month and three-month gym membership, respectively.

Both races will start at 5pm and awards ceremony will be held at 7:30pm at the Garapan Fishing Base/Taste of Marianas grounds. Participants must pick up their race packet on Aug. 27 from 4pm to 7pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. Registration is still open and can be



Deborah Deleon Guerrero of Joeten Ent., second right, donates over \$1,000 in merchandise on Aug. 3, 2021, for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, tournament committee member Catherine Perry, Kaia Travilla, tournament committee member Tony Satur, Deleon Guerrero, and Marc Mendiola. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



Tournament committee member Catherine Perry, left, receives a donation of gift certificates on July 29, 2021, from Java Joe's for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

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done via online at <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50057/michelob-ultra-4-mile-run-for-taste?> and <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50180/pokka-4-mile-sunset-run?> Registration fees are \$25 per runner/walker.

Proceeds from the races will be used to fund the NMI men's and women's national teams' participation in the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

NMIBF's first fundraising event is also supported by Michelob Ultra, Pokka, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Athletes, and Latte Built. For more information, send email to nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Saipan, IT&E, Kautz Glass and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package Sponsors are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corporation, Dial Rent to Own, DOCOMO Pacific Saipan, Ernst and Young, Ina's Kitchen, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, Kensington Saipan Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Saipan, and Art Man Environment Corp. The tournament is also supported by numerous other cash sponsors.

For more information, contact Tournament chair Glenn Policare at glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	69	44	.611	—
Boston	65	50	.565	5
New York	62	51	.549	7
Toronto	61	51	.545	7½
Baltimore	38	73	.342	30

Central Division

Chicago	67	47	.588	—
Cleveland	55	56	.495	10½
Detroit	55	60	.478	12½
Kansas City	49	63	.438	17
Minnesota	49	65	.430	18

West Division

Houston	67	46	.593	—
Oakland	65	48	.575	2
Seattle	59	55	.518	8½
Los Angeles	57	57	.500	10½
Texas	40	73	.354	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	59	54	.522	—
Atlanta	58	55	.513	1
New York	56	55	.505	2
Washington	50	62	.446	8½
Miami	47	67	.412	12½

Central Division

Milwaukee	68	46	.596	—
Cincinnati	61	53	.535	7
St. Louis	56	56	.500	11
Chicago	52	63	.452	16½
Pittsburgh	41	72	.363	26½

West Division

San Francisco	72	41	.637	—
Los Angeles	68	45	.602	4
San Diego	66	49	.574	7
Colorado	51	62	.451	21
Arizona	35	79	.307	37½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KELVIN

From Page 20

fight website Tapology currently predicts a Fitial win over Cleveland, 80%-20%.

Fitial said he has yet to scout his opponent for B2 Fighting Series 132. "I don't know much about him. I am just excited to be back and be given the opportunity. I feel good. Training harder every day leading up to this fight," he said.

Aside from the Fitial-Cleveland pro fight in the 265-lb division, the rest of the fight card for B2 Fighting Series 132 include: Gabriel Mota vs. Nathan Pierce in the 185-lb division; Yemi Oduwole vs. Brandon Bell in the 170-lb division; Gage Mitchell vs. Trea Wills in the 125-lb division; Loi Pio vs. Donnell Walker in the 265-lb division; Nicholas Mondelli vs. Wilder Portales in the 170-lb division; Lane Lightle vs. Eric Gilbert in the 265-lb division; Vester Harris vs. Jordan Tennyson in the 265-lb division; Trevor Rickard vs. Stephen Waggner in the 145-lb division; Blake Alvey vs. Alex Leemon in the 135-lb division; and Kalakon Olieng vs. Aaron White in the 145-lb division.

Two weeks after his fight against Cleveland, Fitial will take on Chandler Cole in the pro heavyweight fight of Showcase MMA's Checkmate set for Sept. 3 at the Meadowview Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Fighting out of Wise County Combat Club, the 5'10" Cole is currently the No. 1 ranked professional MMA heavyweight in Tennessee and sixth ranked in the U.S. Southeast.

IT&E

From Page 20

porting our first fundraising event. The new NMIBF board is restructuring its programs and finding ways to explore and provide many opportunities for our players, especially for our youth and having private companies like IT&E to help us have the means to implement our plans is very encouraging," NMIBF president James Lee said.

Lee is hoping that other companies and groups will also encourage their employees and members to join the races not just to support NMIBF, but also to motivate them to engage in physical ac-

tivities. Studies show that promotion of physical activities among employees helps manage stress in the workplace and increases productivity.

The NMIBF's fundraising event is divided into two categories to cater to runners/walkers in all age groups. The Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste is for runners/walkers in the 21 and over age group, while the Pokka 4-Mile Sunset Run is for under 21 participants. Both races will start and end at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround point across the Army Recruiting Center in Beach Road.

The first 65 runners (for Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run) and 35 (Pokka 4-Mile) to register

(2:05:36) Jay Muna (2:18:23); Shiela Mabutas (2:30:05); and Simon Necesito (3:14:21).

Dela Cruz said the March 21K was a unique course because it was a trial test to create a new half marathon race in the future separate from the Marianas Visitors Authority's regular marathon race.

"I really hate out-and-back courses. So we developed a hotel-to-hotel race course where runners don't have to worry about turning back. It's better for competitive athletes too because they do not have to run back through traffic from slower runners," he said.

In the April half marathon

BARRIOS

From Page 20

Gerald Galang at 1:48:34 with Christopher Aninzo rounding out the Top 3 at 1:58:55. The rest of the hotel-to-hotel runners were Terence Leung (1:58:55); Anastasiia Dela Cruz (2:05:36); Jalen Lucido

that used the classic route from Hyatt to PIC and back, Villoria tackled the course in 2:08, followed by Tiana Cabrera (2:08:00), Gerald De Guzman (2:42:34), Jalen Lucido (2:42:34), and Edward S. Dela Cruz (2:42:34).

Run Saipan roadrunners are at it again this Saturday



**Dodgers
end Phillies'
8-game
run with
5-0 victory**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**HANMI
thanks
in-kind
tournament
sponsors**

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20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Barrios tops half marathon time trial

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jay-ar Equia Barrios topped Run Saipan's half marathon time trial from Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan to Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and back last Saturday.

The 38-year-old long-distance runner finished the 21-kilometer course in 1:52:38.72. Coming in second is Jalen Lucido at 2:09:10, while third place and the first woman to cross the finish line

is Rosemarie Chisato 2:18:36.7. Three other runners took part

in the long course: Ann Bang (2:52:47.1); Moji Kamote (3:16:32); and Simon Necesito (3:16:32).

Barrios, whose personal best in the half marathon is 1:49:00, said he was just trying to get back in shape and that's why he took part in the time trial.

The Davao City, Philippines native has been running the past three years and has been one of the more active runners of Run Saipan.

Run Saipan coordinator Edward Dela Cruz congratulated all the participants of the half



From left, Jay-ar Equia Barrios, Rosemarie Chisato, and Jalen Lucido pose after completing Run Saipan's half marathon time trial from Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan to Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and back last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

marathon time trial.

"Amazing job to our runners that wanted to test out there half marathon time this morning. They all went out strong and finished strong this morning. No one gave up! For some it was their multi-time but wanted to see where they were at. For Rosemarie Chisato it was her first time. So, congratulations and welcome to the 21K club!" he said on a social media post.

Dela Cruz added that the reason he chose the Hyatt-PIC route is because it's an official half marathon course. "It's

a certified course regardless what your GPS, smart phone, or Strava cutting you short. They had an accurate distance and race time results," he said.

He added that while Run Saipan doesn't conduct half marathon time trials as regularly as their monthly 5-kilometer runs, they still do it as an introductory run for those wanting to tackle 21 kilometers or for those who just want to gauge their fitness level in the half marathon.

"The purpose of the time trials is if people want to know where they are at or for people

that never attempt it before. They would run the official race route. Club members serve as timers and also water side stations so runners can focus on just running," he said.

The previous half marathon time trials Run Saipan conducted saw Dela Cruz himself top the event last March and Sildrey Voloria follow suit last April.

In the March event, Dela Cruz negotiated the straight route from Coral Ocean Point Golf Course in Obyan to Kensington Hotel in San Roque in 1:48:34. He was followed by

See BARRIOS on Page 19

Kelvin to fight in B2 Fighting Series 132

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's very own Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial will see action in B2 Fighting Series 132 set on Aug. 21 in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Fitial, fighting out of Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym, will take on Rakim Cleveland in a pro heavy-weight title bout.

Cleveland hails from Dayton, Texas and comes into the fight with 21-13-1-1 win-loss-draw-no contest card. The Des Moines MMA Academy/Glory MMA & Fitness fighter is 6'3" and tips the scales at 205 lbs.

He has won his last two fights—a second round TKO (strikes) win against

Scott Hough in North Iowa Fights last April 24 and a second round submission win against Parnell Davis in Caged Aggression 30 last March 25.

The 37-year-old Fitial will come into the ring with a 15-9-2 win-loss-draw record and is 6'3" tall and currently weighs 253 lbs. Fitial last fought professionally in March 2019 in Hex Fight Series 18 in Melbourne, Australia where he was knocked out in the opening round by Australia's Benjamin Sosoli.

He is currently in Louisville, Kentucky for training camp under Raymond Diaz and the aforementioned Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym.

Commenters in MMA **See KELVIN on Page 19**



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, second from left, poses with fellow MMA fighters at the Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E supports NMIBF's 4-Mile Fun Run



Member of the NMI Men's National Team training pool perform warm-up drills at the Oleai Sports Complex track oval before training at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Tuesday. The men's squad along with the women's team are the beneficiaries of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's fundraising running event set for Aug. 28, 2021.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IT&E has stepped up to support Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's first fundraising event, the Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste and Pokka 4-Mile Sunset Run that will be held on Aug. 28.

IT&E is sponsoring the entrance fees of its 15 employees that will participate in the pair of races, as the leading telecommunication company continues to rally behind community activities that promote health and wellness and benefit sports organizations.

"We are grateful to IT&E management and staff for support. **See IT&E on Page 19**